WITCHES' TALES

PDC 556776

OCTOBER 1971 60¢

GUT-CLUTCHING TALES OF WEIRD HORROR

FEATURING:

THE SHOCKING HORROR OF
ONE STEP BEYOND

THE BONE-CHILLING FEAR OF
BLOODY TALUS

THE INCREDIBLE
TERROR FROM THE SKY

PLUS OTHER WITCHES' TALES

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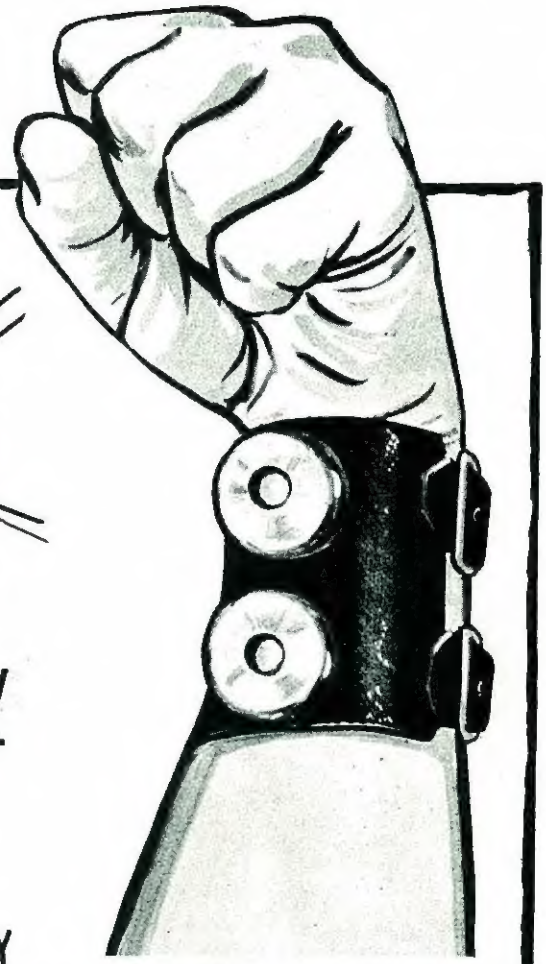

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WELCOME TO THE OLD HAG'S FESTIVAL OF FIENDISH FRIGHT AND TAKE...
ONE STEP BEYOND
LTH WAS UNEASY. OUTSIDE THE SHIP, EARTH LAY DEAD. IT HAD BEEN ERASED. ALL SEEMED TO HAVE GONE WELL. YET BRX SHOULD HAVE RETURNED BY NOW. LTH STIRRED. BEHIND HER, THE MAN-THING STIRRED ALSO.
LTH EXTENDED A PSEUDOPOD FROM THE PROTOPLASMIC MASS THAT WAS HER BODY...

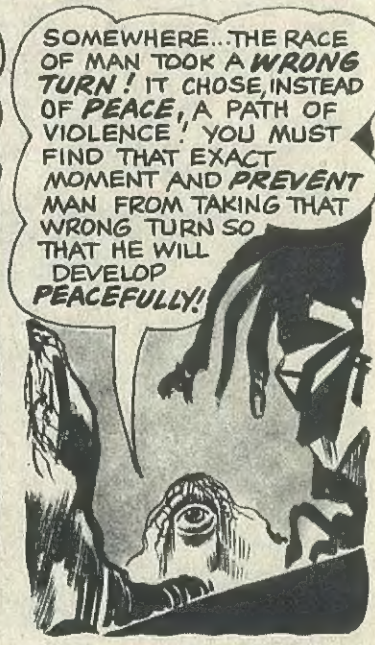
LTH STUDIED THE MAN-THING. SHE WATCHED HIM STRUGGLE TO HIS FEET... TURN AND STARE AT HER. HIS FACE A MASK OF DISBELIEF...
NO! NO! THIS... THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
POOR EARTHLING. TIME ENOUGH LATER FOR HIM TO FACE REALITY. HER THOUGHT WAVE STRUCK HIS BRAIN LIKE A TRIP-HAMMER...
YOU... YOU... GGNNNGG!

THE MAN-THING FELL AND SANK TO THE DECK PLATES. LTH REGRETTED WHAT SHE AND BRX HAD DONE. BUT HAD NOT THE PROCTORS SAID..."BY ANY MEANS!"?
YOUR TASK IS TO INSURE, BY ANY MEANS, THAT THE THIRD PLANET WILL NOT BRING DISHARMONY TO THIS FEDERATION!

LTH REMEMBERED. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF EVERY PLANET OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM...EXCEPT ONE... HAD BEEN THERE.
THE METHOD WE LEAVE TO YOU! EARTH IS NOW ENTERING THE THIRD DEVELOPMENT STAGE...NUCLEAR FISSION! YOU KNOW THE FOURTH STAGE...

MAN, AS THE DOMINANT LIFE FORM ON THE THIRD PLANET CALLS ITSELF, WILL HAVE TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE SOLAR FEDERATION WHEN THAT HAPPENS!

AND MAN IS UNFIT!
MAN IS A BRAWLING, BLOODTHIRSTY SAVAGE WHO WOULD DESTROY US ALL! HE MUST BE MADE FIT! THAT...IS YOUR PROBLEM, LTH AND BRX!


SOMEWHERE...THE RACE OF MAN TOOK A WRONG TURN! IT CHOSE, INSTEAD OF PEACE, A PATH OF VIOLENCE! YOU MUST FIND THAT EXACT MOMENT AND PREVENT MAN FROM TAKING THAT WRONG TURN SO THAT HE WILL DEVELOP PEACEFULLY!

THE PROBLEM HAD NOT SEEMED DIFFICULT TO LTH...THEN. ALTER A TINY INCIDENT IN THE TIME-CONTINUUM AND YOU ALTER THE FUTURE FOR ALL ETERNITY! BUT LATER, LTH HAD HAD DOUBTS...
BRX...PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE ONLY OBSERVED FROM A DISTANCE AT FIRST!

TIME IS SO VAST, BRX! GIVEN TIME, MAN MIGHT TAKE THE WAY OF PEACE OF HIS OWN ACCORD.
WE ARE SCIENTISTS, LTH! WE SHALL CHOOSE THE RIGHT MOMENT! BUT PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR NOW... MERELY TO OBSERVE!

LTH SHUDDERED AS SHE REMEMBERED. BRX'S EXTENDED POD HAD FLICKED A CONTROL AND THE SHIP FLASHED OUT OF TIMELESS SPACE INTO THE PRESENT.

THE SIGHT OF IT HAD MADE LTH ILL. THE TAKING OF ONE LIFE SHE COULD UNDERSTAND.. IF IT WERE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL LIFE. BUT THIS... THIS WAS BUTCHERY...
BRX, THOSE CREATURES... FORCED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES... WHILE OTHERS TRY TO KILL THEM! WHY?

BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL WAR! BUT THEIR THOUGHTS ARE CONFUSED! MY BRAIN FEELS AS IF IT IS ABOUT TO SPLIT! THE MOMENT WE SEEK IS NOT IN THE PRESENT!

BRX REACHED FOR THE CONTROLS..
IF WE REMAIN HERE, THE ACCUMULATED HATE WILL DRIVE US MAD!
YES, BRX! HURRY!

SO MANY OF THOSE THINGS HARDLY SEEM WORTH CARING ABOUT. BUT AT LEAST WE KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT!

WE MUST FORCE OURSELVES TO THINK COLDLY!
I KNOW! BUT... BRX! THOSE POOR CREATURES! KILLING! DESTROYING! WHY? FOR WHAT?

WHEN WE KNOW WHY MAN KILLS, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO FIND A CURE! THE RACE IS INTELLIGENT, THEREFORE IT MUST SURVIVE! WE MUST FIND THE MOMENT WHEN MAN FIRST BEGAN TO KILL!

FIND THAT MOMENT, AND ALTER MAN'S HISTORY!
STILL THEY FIGHT... BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER, EVEN! THE SAME INSANITY...

BRX! ENOUGH! SOME FIGHT FOR GOOD CAUSES ... BUT STILL THEY FIGHT!
SOMEWHERE IN THEIR HISTORY, SURELY, MEN WERE NOT LIKE THIS!

AT FIRST, LTH HAD PITIED THE POOR CREATURES AS THEY SLAUGHTERED EACH OTHER. SHE AND BRX HAD EVEN MINGLED WITH MAN ON OCCASIONS.
THE FOOLS! LOOK HOW THEY SUFFER BECAUSE OTHERS DESIRE POWER!

THEIR PLANET COULD BE A PLACE OF PEACE AND PLENTY, BUT SOME WILL NOT HAVE IT SO!
THEY KNOW NO BETTER, BRX! IT WAS YOUR DESIRE THAT WE ASSUME THEIR FORM AND MINGLE WITH THEM! HAD ENOUGH?

NO, LTH! SOMEWHERE WE WILL FIND WHAT WE SEEK. WE WILL GO FURTHER BACK IN TIME.

BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO SUCH TIME...

ALWAYS, NO MATTER HOW FAR BACK THEY'D GONE, IT HAD BEEN THE SAME...

LTH! THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER! MAN... MUST START OVER AGAIN!

MAN MUST BE GUIDED... TAUGHT... FROM THE BEGINNING!

WE COULD GUIDE THE TWO SURVIVORS AND WHEN THEY'D COMPLETED THEIR SHORT LIFE SPANS WE COULD GUIDE THEIR CHILDREN... AND THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN...
UNTIL HATE AND VIOLENCE HAVE BEEN BRED AWAY AND MAN CAN GO ON TO PEACE!

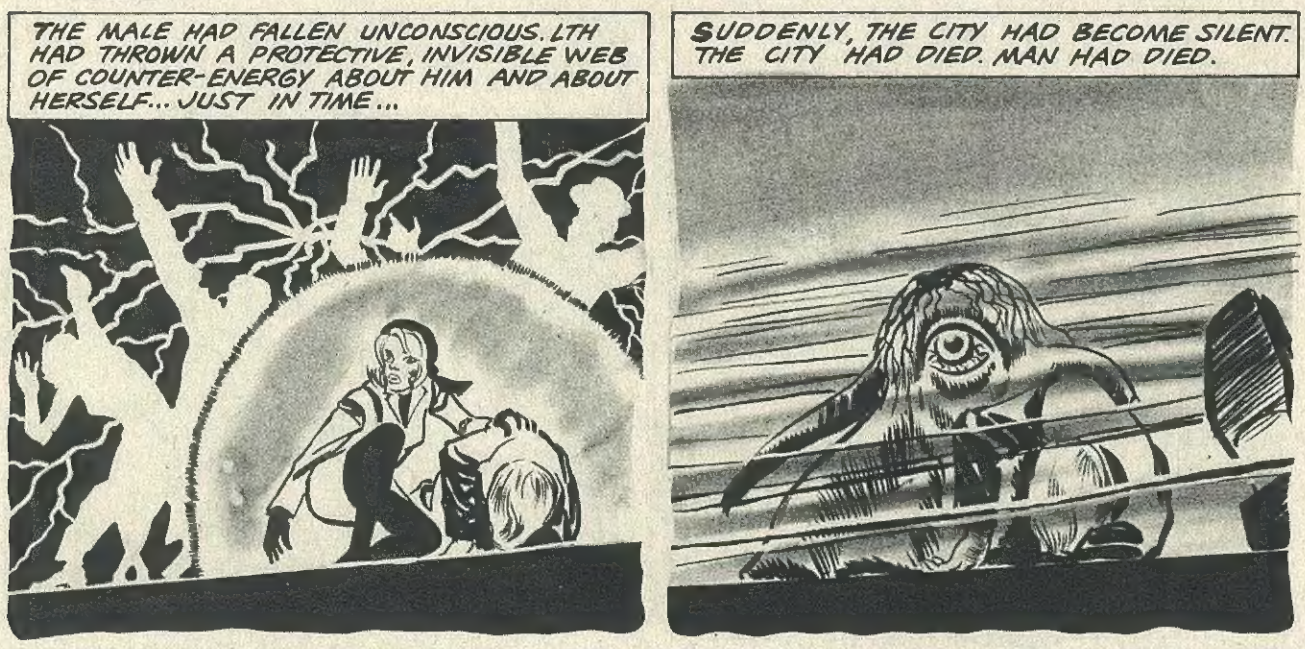
I HAVE BROUGHT US BACK TO THE PRESENT SO THAT WE MAY FIND INTELLIGENT, ADVANCED SPECIMENS. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, LTH?

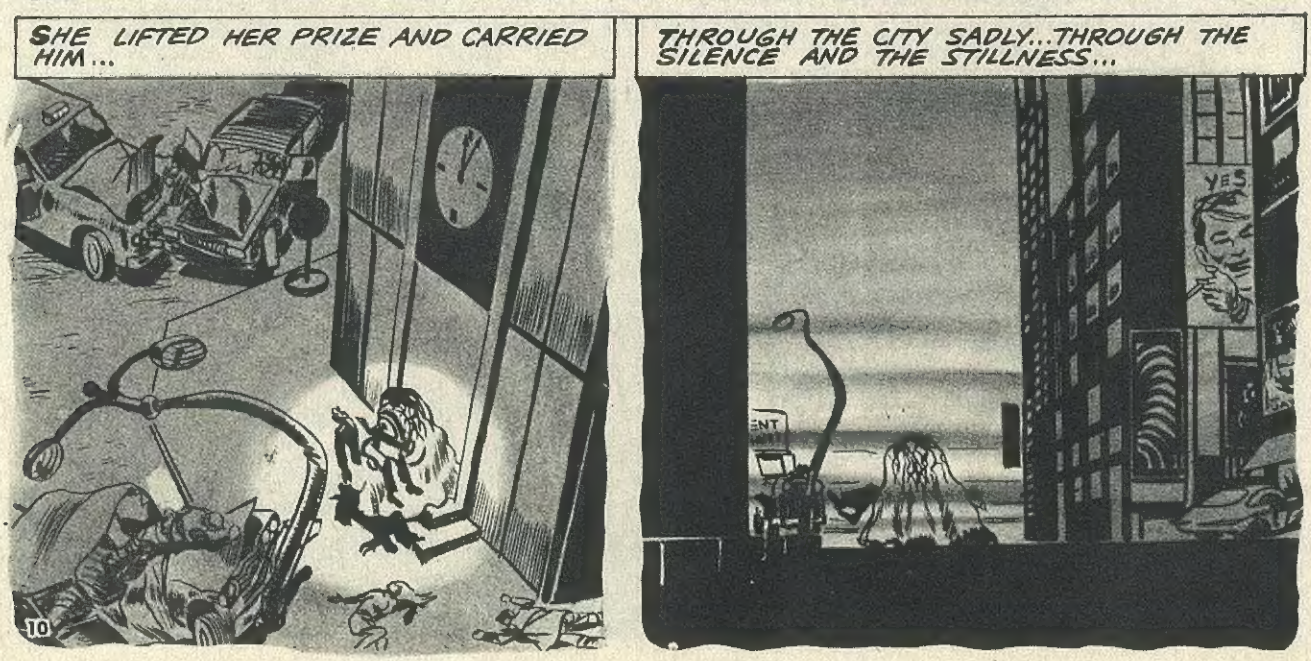
YES. I WILL FIND A MALE HUMAN OF THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE TYPE AND RETURN WITH HIM IN EXACTLY TEN EARTH DAYS!
AS I SHALL RETURN WITH A FEMALE!

CAREFULLY, BRX HAD SET "THE DESTROYER." IN TEN EARTH DAYS, IT WOULD ACTIVATE ITSELF. ENERGY WOULD STREAM OUT IN ALL DIRECTIONS, AND MAN WOULD DIE. IT WAS NECESSARY. YET LTH WONDERED...
IS THERE NO OTHER WAY?
NONE! THERE, IT IS SET! LET US BE OFF!

AND SO, A MOMENT LATER, THEIR CRAFT'S TWO SCOUT-SHIPS HAD SPED SILENTLY AWAY...
...AND IN ONE LTH HAD STARED AT THE REFLECTION OF THE SHAPE INTO WHICH SHE'D FORCED HER PLASTIC MALLEABLE, PROTOPLASMIC BODY...
HER SCOUT SHIP HAD SPUN OVER SEAS, WHISKED ACROSS CONTINENTS...
LTH HAD SEARCHED FAR. BUT ON THIS PLANET, THE TEEMING CITIES WERE THE CENTERS OF CULTURE.
DUSTIN HOFFMAN JON VOIGHT
MIDNIGTH COWBOY
WELL, HELLO, BEAUTIFUL...
I... I...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, GORGEOUS? CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE? YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY COY WITH ME NOW! I KNOW THE SCORE! I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME! C'MON LET'S GET ACQUAINTED!
NO! LET ME GO!
LTH STUNNED THE MALE WITH A THOUGHT WAVE IN ORDER TO PROTECT HERSELF...

BUT, FOR THAT BAD ONE, THERE'D BE THOUSANDS OF GOOD ONES TO CHOOSE FROM.
TAXI
THE DAYS HAD SPED BY AND IN THE END, TIME HAD SIMPLY RUN OUT...
ONLY A FEW MOMENTS LEFT!
TICKETS
IN SECONDS, "THE DESTROYER" WOULD ACTIVATE ITSELF! LTH HAD HAD TO CHOSE... THEN... AT ONCE... AT RANDOM... BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE...

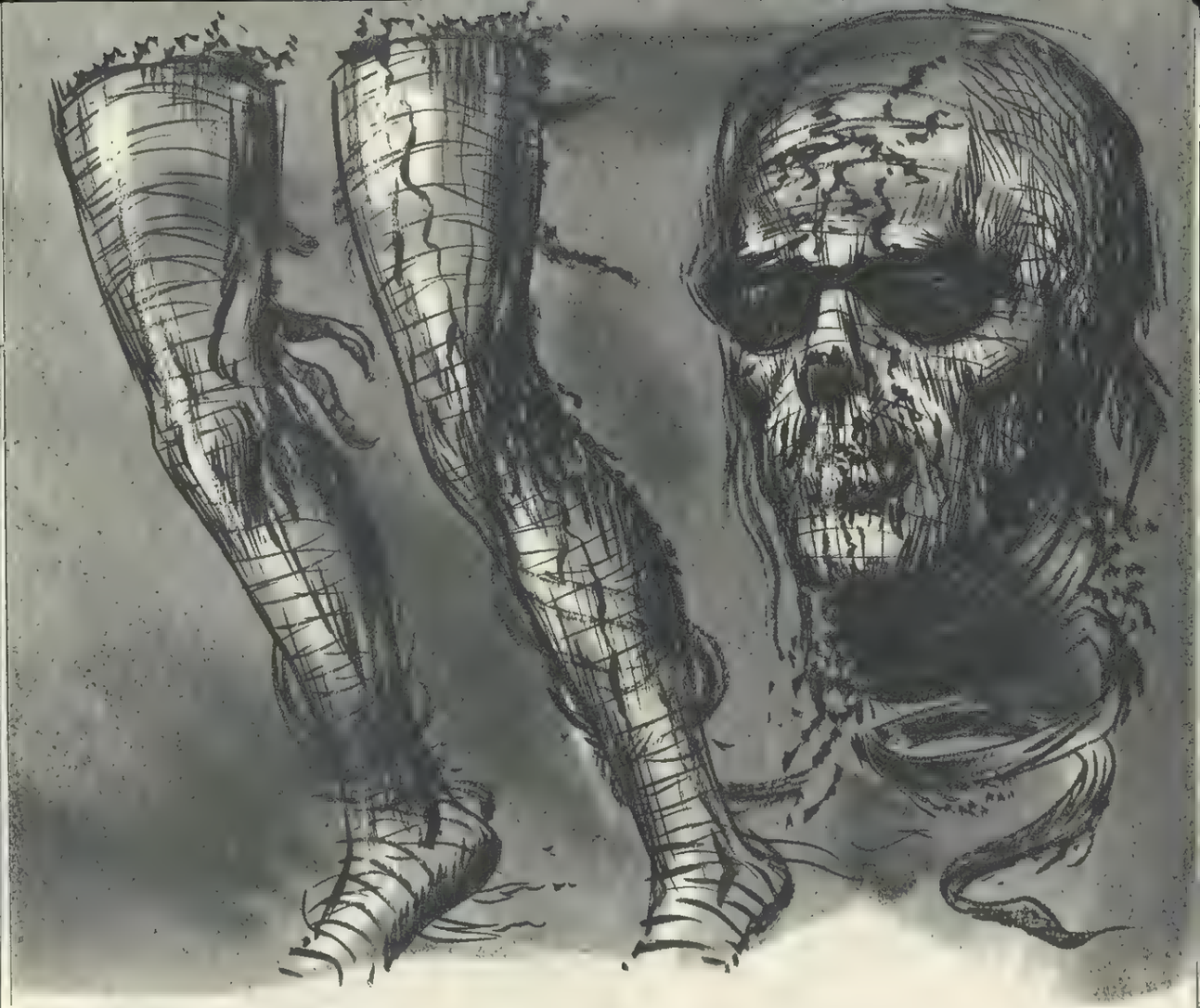

THE MALE HAD FALLEN UNCONSCIOUS. LTH HAD THROWN A PROTECTIVE, INVISIBLE WEB OF COUNTER-ENERGY ABOUT HIM AND ABOUT HERSELF... JUST IN TIME...
SUDDENLY, THE CITY HAD BECOME SILENT. THE CITY HAD DIED. MAN HAD DIED.


SHE LIFTED HER PRIZE AND CARRIED HIM...
THROUGH THE CITY SADLY... THROUGH THE SILENCE AND THE STILLNESS...
YES

LTH SIGHED, REMEMBERING. BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHOICE. YES, IT WAS A GREAT PITY. SOMEWHERE, OUT THERE, BRX WOULD BE COMING WITH ITS MATE...
BUT DARKNESS WAS SETTING IN NOW... LIKE A VEIL OVER THE DEATH ALL AROUND THE SHIP. LTH AROSE AND GLIDED TOWARD THE PORT...
SHE SCANNED THE CLEARING, PEERING INTO THE SHADOWS. THE MAN STIRRED AGAIN...
SOMETHING WAS WRONG. HER ANXIETY AND WORRY HAD RELAXED HER MENTAL HOLD ON THE MAN BEHIND HER. HE SAT UP, STARING WIDE-EYED AT LTH...
NO... YOU MUST NOT BE AFRAID! TRY TO UNDERSTAND! YOUR WORLD IS DEAD! BUT YOU WILL LIVE! THROUGH YOU, AND A MATE, YOUR RACE WILL LIVE AGAIN...
IT WAS THEN THAT THE MAN'S THOUGHTS REACHED OUT TO LTH. IT WAS THEN THAT SHE SUDDENLY UNDERSTOOD THE TRUE MEANING OF THE LOOK IN THE MAN'S EYES...
YOU... YOU... OH... NO!
...EVEN BEFORE HIS BODY BEGAN TO DRAW INTO ITSELF ...TO CHANGE...TO LOSE ITS SHAPE. EVEN BEFORE BRX RETURNED TO HIS NATURAL FORM...
CHOKE...
THE END

THE STRANGE HAUNT

■ In the later years of the 18th Century, Alexandria, Virginia, was a thriving seaport. A contemporary reported that "the Port of Alexandria has seldom less than 20 square-rigged Vessels in it and often many more." Ships from all parts of the world unloaded and loaded cargoes on the Alexandria docks. Incoming shipping included spices, tea, fruit, wine from Madeira, Moroccan leather, rum, Spanish Port, damasks, brocades, linens, wool, and for the cultivated gentlemen of Virginia's "Northern Neck," harpsichords and the "new-fangled" *piano-forte*. Ships left with tobacco, flour, tar, slates, iron, and dried fish. The streets of the town bore such names as King, Queen, Prince, Princess, Duke, Royal, Oronoco, and St. Asaph—as they do until this day.



Among the captains whose ships plied the seas between Alexandria and far distant ports such as St. Petersburg, Hong Kong, and that other Alexandria in Egypt, was one James Randall. Captain James Randall had been born in the old capital city of Virginia, Williamsburg. When a youth, he had run away to sea, and through his natural shrewdness and tenacity of purpose, eventually found himself captain of his own vessel, the brigantine *Chichester*.

In the 1790's, Randall bought a house near the docks of the town on the Potomac. Here his children were born, two of whom were also to become sea captains in their day.

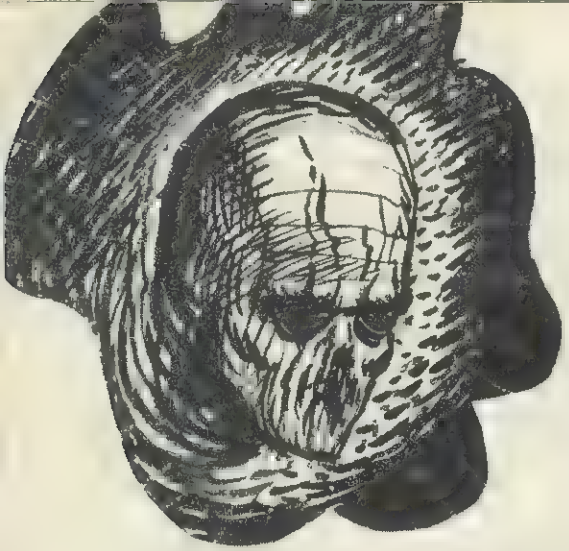
Captain Randall was a man of considerable natural curiosity. Although in no sense a scholar, he actively collected curios and souvenirs: Indian relics from Virginia planters of his acquaintance; carvings from West Africa, the South Seas, and China; and on his voyages to the Mediterranean he acquired ancient vases, Egyptian scarabs, and a stone fragment said to have come from the ruins of Palmyra, the Roman caravansari in the Syrian desert.

The strangest thing of all, however, was undoubtedly a large pottery burial-urn which had been dug up on the western coast of South America. This urn had been purchased for the Virginia captain by a colleague from Boston, a Captain Peters, in Valparaiso, Chile, in 1801. Peters was acquainted with his friend's interest in the odd and unusual and ancient, and this urn contained something very much in those categories; the mummy of a man identified by superstitious Indians as that of a Nazca sorcerer—but in fact not a whole mummy, for the man had been so abhorred that after his death his corpse had been cut in two and each half buried separately! The idea was that should a ghoul be able to return from the dead, his "split personality" would prevent him from doing harm. The urn contained the lower half of this mummy, the body having been neatly severed at the waist.

This grisly souvenir soon gave excuse for being regarded as an unlucky object, a focus of misfortune.

Captain Peters, with the urn stowed in his ship's hold, died of an undiagnosed and abrupt illness.

When the urn at length came into the hands of Captain Randall, the



half-mummy within had only one leg—the left. It was explained that, shortly before his death, Peters had become delirious and spoke with feverish agitation of hearing the torsoless mummy *walking on the ship's deck at night.* He actually went so far as to rip off the mummy's right leg, throwing it into the sea, in order to prevent the lower half of the desiccated sorcerer from "walking." Within a few hours the captain was dead. There was an outcry by several of the crew to toss the urn and the remains of its charnel contents overboard; but the first mate, who took no stock of such matters, insisted that the urn was to be delivered to Captain Randall, not Davy Jones, and that no heathenish nonsense about the mummy's galavanting about the decks would interfere with that delivery. Then, if the mummy (what little was left of that pitiful chap) wanted to stroll about the streets of Alexandria—that was Randall's responsibility!

Captain Randall was nonplussed by this gift, and saddened by its connection with the death of his friend, Peters. At first he thought of burying the remaining part of the mummy, but reasoning that no familiar Christian duty obligated him to perform last rites for an evil heathen whose skin and bones were already scattered over half the Western World, he decided that it would be unnecessary for him to trouble himself thus. The urn and its anatomically-diminished occupant were therefore relegated to a corner of the cellar next to racks of dusty wine bottles, and for several months the ignominiously-handled Nazcan's carcase and its pottery tomb were forgotten.

Then one night Randall was standing by the mantlepiece in his parlor, smoking a last pipe. Something caught his attention from the corner of his eye. He turned slightly and saw, beneath a table by the window, a small, shining globe, floating silently in the air—an object about the size of an apple. He watched it dumbfounded. His pipe fell from his mouth. He stood staring at it for several minutes until it suddenly faded away—vanished into thin air. No trace could be found, though Randall was on his knees searching for it immediately upon its disappearance. It was not a burning object, but a silver-shining sphere of cold light. He first suspected something like St. Elmo's Fire, but there was no crackling sound, no smell of ozone, and nothing to indicate an electrical phenomenon.

The captain said nothing about this event at first, believing that he had possibly had one or two glasses of Port too many on that evening.

On the next night the occurrence repeated itself. Captain Randall saw the shining sphere, this time above the table, and this time it moved. Slowly, very slowly, it glided across to the middle of the room. He turned to watch it. It swelled in size: expanded until it was as large in diameter as "the end of a hogshead," and suddenly vanished like a bursting bubble, with a loud popping sound. All at once the room was pervaded by an overpowering stench—an odor of the most awful rottenness. As Randall rushed from the room in nausea (and the old sea dogs were used to some terrible smells, one might remember), he imagined hearing a faint, cackling laughter that turned his blood to ice.

On the following night, not one, but numerous shining spheres appeared in the house. Captain Randall, this time with his wife as witness, watched another shining globe appear over the table and float to the room's center. It burst, or seemed to burst, with the same loud popping noise. Again there was a stench, but before the captain and Mrs. Randall could flee the room, both saw a monstrous, shriveled-brown *face* appear where the sphere had been—and the face tittered and snickered most disgustingly.

Minutes later, the children upstairs cried out. Their parents found them in the hallway, frightened and tearful at the shining balls that had, according to their account, been sailing through their rooms, whizzing and popping and going right through the walls.

Pacifying the children, the captain and his wife retired, intending that on the morrow a clergyman should be brought to make inquiry into these unsettling apparitions that were confounding the Randall household.

But that night, the captain slept little. Whether in dream or waking he could not tell (it was in that borderland betwixt sleep and consciousness), there came a sound. It was a simple sound, unfamiliar, yet he *knew* it only too well! Up the stairs, over the floor of the hall, there came a bumping, bumping—a sound like that of a one-legged man hopping on his only remaining foot, a foot swathed in cloth, a foot such as should not be a living foot . . .

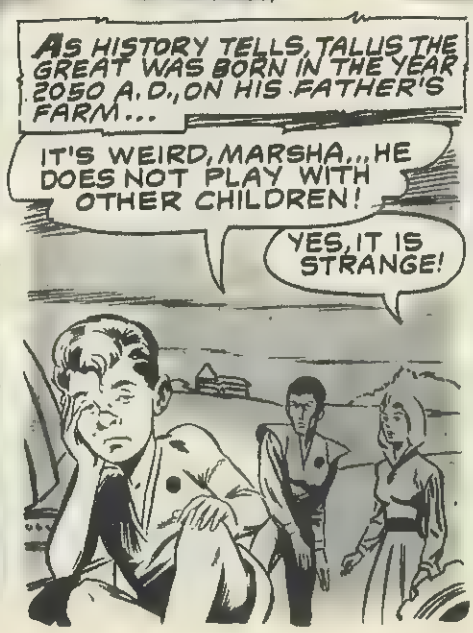
Captain Randall woke in sweat, rushed to the door, but the hallway was empty, and still as the tomb—he cursed the simile . . .

On the next morning, in the bright, cleansing sunlight and pure air of day, Randall removed the urn from the cellar, presumably riding off to bury it, no one knows where. That afternoon he returned, trembling, his hair showing unwonted traces of gray.

The shining globes were seen no more, the bumping up the stairs was never heard again.

Captain Randall and his ship were lost at sea the following year—off the coast of Peru, I've been told, but I suspect that that detail may be embroidery on the story. In 1903, yellow fever visited Alexandria, almost wiping out the population, and signaling an end to its vitality as a seaport. Mrs. Randall died of the fever, but the surviving children, Jason, Alexander, and Amelia, were adopted by a cousin in Philadelphia. The Randall house, in whose cellar a gruesome visitor had lodged, was torn down in the decades following the Civil War. The story of Captain Randall is almost impossible to get first-hand nowadays, although a few old-timers may remember it. It is among those uncommon pieces of local legendry: a horrifying story that no one seems to care about repeating. ■

BLOODY TALUS



LITTLE ANN MALO LIVED ON THE ADJOINING FARM! SHE AND TALUS WERE SOMETIMES TOGETHER, AND ONE DAY...

THERE YOU ARE, CHILDREN! CANDY FOR EACH OF YOU! NOW RUN OUT AND PLAY!

OH, THANK YOU! COME ON, TALUS!

GIMME YOUR CANDY!

YOU'VE GOT **YOURS!** THIS IS **MINE!** OHHH-H...

Y-YOU'RE A NASTY BOY! YOU WANT EVERYTHING THAT BELONGS TO OTHER PEOPLE! I **HATE** YOU!

TALUS' FATHER TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO HIM!

TALUS, CAN'T YOU UNDER-STAND--

I'M STRONGER THAN SHE IS! GO AHEAD AND BEAT ME! YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BEAT ME... WHEN I'M BIG AS YOU ARE!

ONE DAY WHEN TALUS WAS IN HIS TEENS...

GET OUT OF MY WAY, RODD! I'M WALKING HOME WITH ANN!

YOU'RE **NOT!** SHE SAID SHE WAS WALKING WITH ME!

IT DEVELOPED INTO A FIGHT, AND...

I HOPE RODDY BEATS HIM!

ME, TOO!

OKAY, READY? BONG! GO AT IT!

AS THEY FOUGHT, TALUS SEIZED A ROCK...

WHA--?

RODD! LOOK OUT!

HEY... **STOP!**

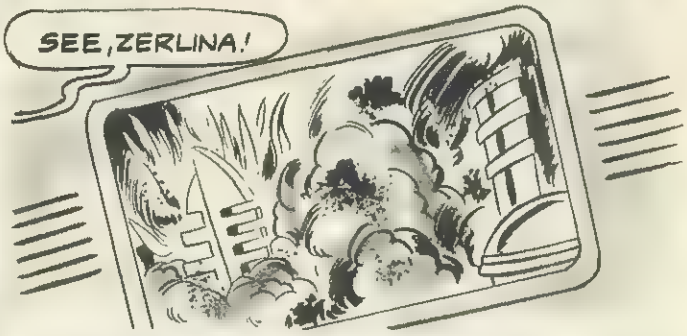
TALUS, AT TWENTY, KNEW WHAT HE WANTED...
RODD... LOOK! TALUS! ALONE!
YES! AS USUAL!
SOMEDAY, EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD WILL BELONG TO ME!
ALEXANDER THE GREAT! NAPOLEON! HITLER! LOWLY BEGINNINGS, BUT METEORIC RISES! AND THE SAME WITH TALMUS!
SOON I'LL BE MASTER OF THE WORLD!
THIS, THEN... WAS THE REIGN OF TALUS TALUS THE GREAT!
BUT, MASTER, IF WE ATTACK THE AMERICAS NOW, OUR LOSSES WILL BE TREMENDOUS!
BUT WE WILL WIN! HA! HA!
HE'S MAD!
UGH! I HATE HIM!
THEN... TREACHERY... INTRIGUE...
THIS WINE-- FOOD POISONED!!?
HOW STRANGE THAT TALUS THE GREAT SHOULD BE AFRAID... BUT HE WAS...
YOU'VE POISONED MY FOOD!
NO, MASTER... NO!
I'LL TEACH YOU!
MASTER! MERCY!
THE ELECTRIC WHIP! UGH!
YAHGH!

RODD JANS, WHO HAD KNOWN TALUS IN HIS CHILDHOOD NOW WAS LIVING IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF TALUS' CAPITAL CITY...
FATHER! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP! YOU'RE TOO TIRED!
SHH-H! I-I'M ALL RIGHT, ZERLINA!
FASTER! THE MASTER WANTS NO LAGGARDS!
THAT EVENING...
FATHER... WE CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY!
WHAT CAN WE DO? WE'RE JUST SLAVES!
SOMEDAY IT WILL CHANGE! WE ARE HOLDING SECRET MEETINGS! EVERY WEEK MORE JOIN US!
LITTLE ANN MARLO HAD MARRIED RODD JANS! ANN NOW WAS DEAD!
TAKE ME TO RODD! HE AND ZERLINA WILL CARE FOR ME!
WHA...?
THE MASTER THOUGHT HIS FOOD WAS POISONED!
HE BEAT CARLO WITH THE ELECTRIC WHIP!
OH, POOR CARLO!
LATER...
HE'S ASLEEP! I'VE GOT TO KILL TALUS SOMEHOW! THERE MUST BE A WAY...
FATHER...?
WITH THE TYRANT DEAD, THE PEOPLE WOULD RISE AND TAKE BACK WHAT BELONGS TO THEM!
FATHER...LISTEN! I HAVE A PLAN!

A HALF YEAR PASSED! ZERLINA WAS A BEAUTIFUL AND CLEVER YOUNG WOMAN... AND TALUS WAS ONLY HUMAN...AT THE END OF A FEW SHORT MONTHS...
I WILL ALWAYS TASTE YOUR FOOD AND DRINK, MY MASTER!
HO! YOU'RE MY FAVORITE, ZERLINA!

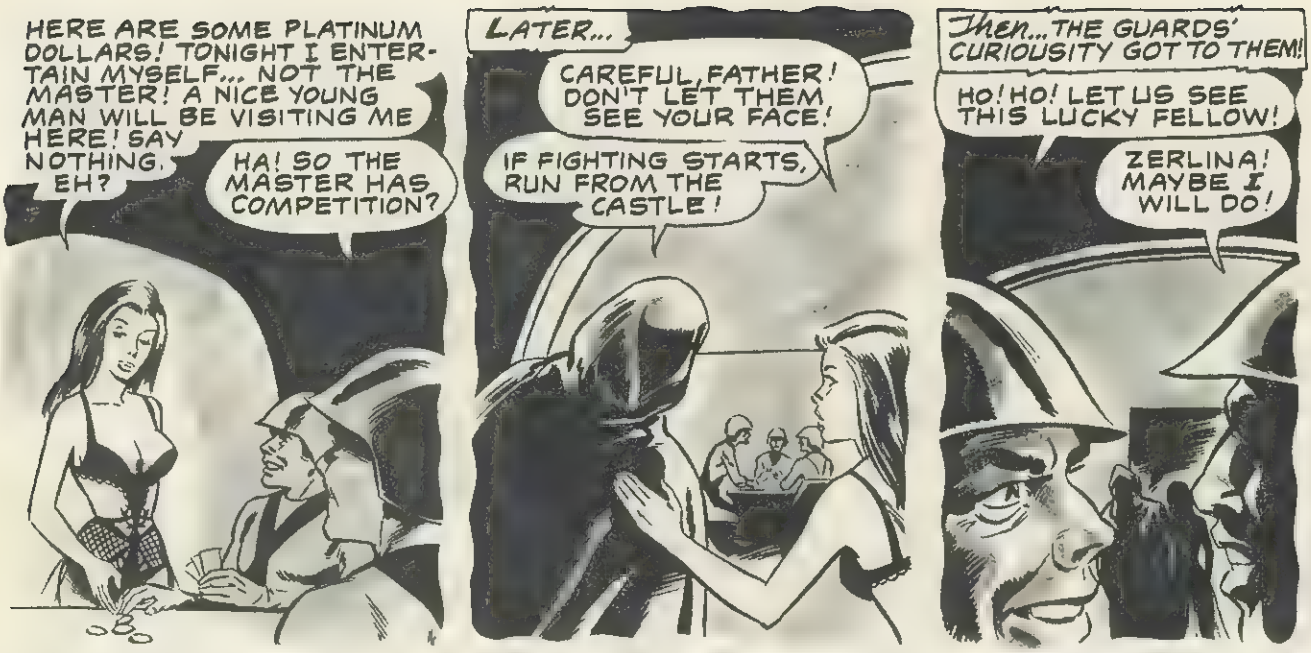
SLAVE TO MY MASTER! THAT IS MY ONLY HAPPINESS!
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL!

ZERLINA WON TALUS' CONFIDENCE COMPLETELY!
SEE, MY DEAR! MY ARMIES ARE SO POWERFUL WE WIN EVERYWHERE!

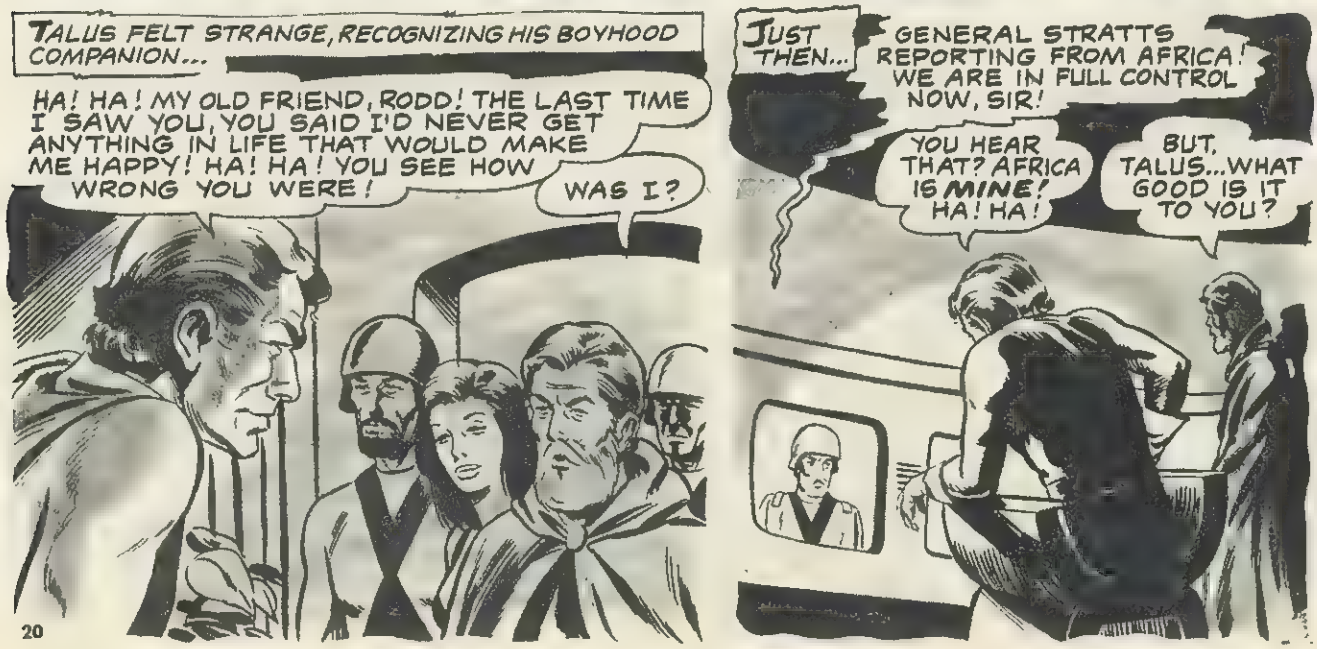

SEE, ZERLINA!

NO ONE CAN WITHSTAND THE POWER OF TALUS THE GREAT!

And THEN CAME THE MOMENTOUS NIGHT WHICH ZERLINA HAD ARRANGED WITH HER FATHER!
HO, ZERLINA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

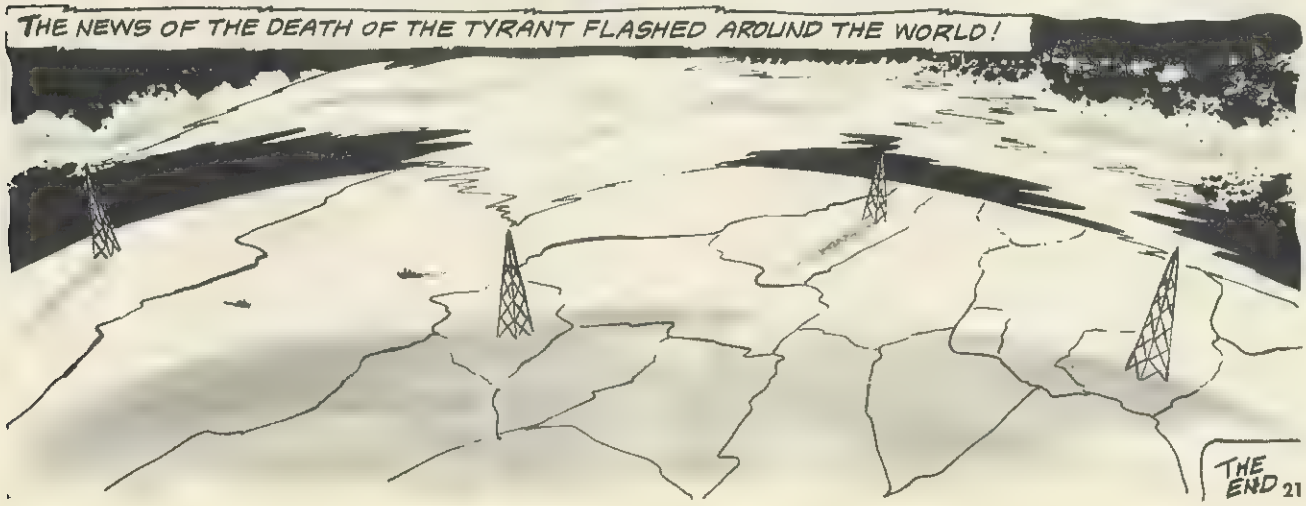

HERE ARE SOME PLATINUM DOLLARS! TONIGHT I ENTERTAIN MYSELF... NOT THE MASTER! A NICE YOUNG MAN WILL BE VISITING ME HERE! SAY NOTHING, EH?
HA! SO THE MASTER HAS COMPETITION?
LATER...
CAREFUL, FATHER! DON'T LET THEM SEE YOUR FACE!
IF FIGHTING STARTS, RUN FROM THE CASTLE!
Then... THE GUARDS' CURIOUSITY GOT TO THEM!
HO! HO! LET US SEE THIS LUCKY FELLOW!
ZERLINA! MAYBE I WILL DO!

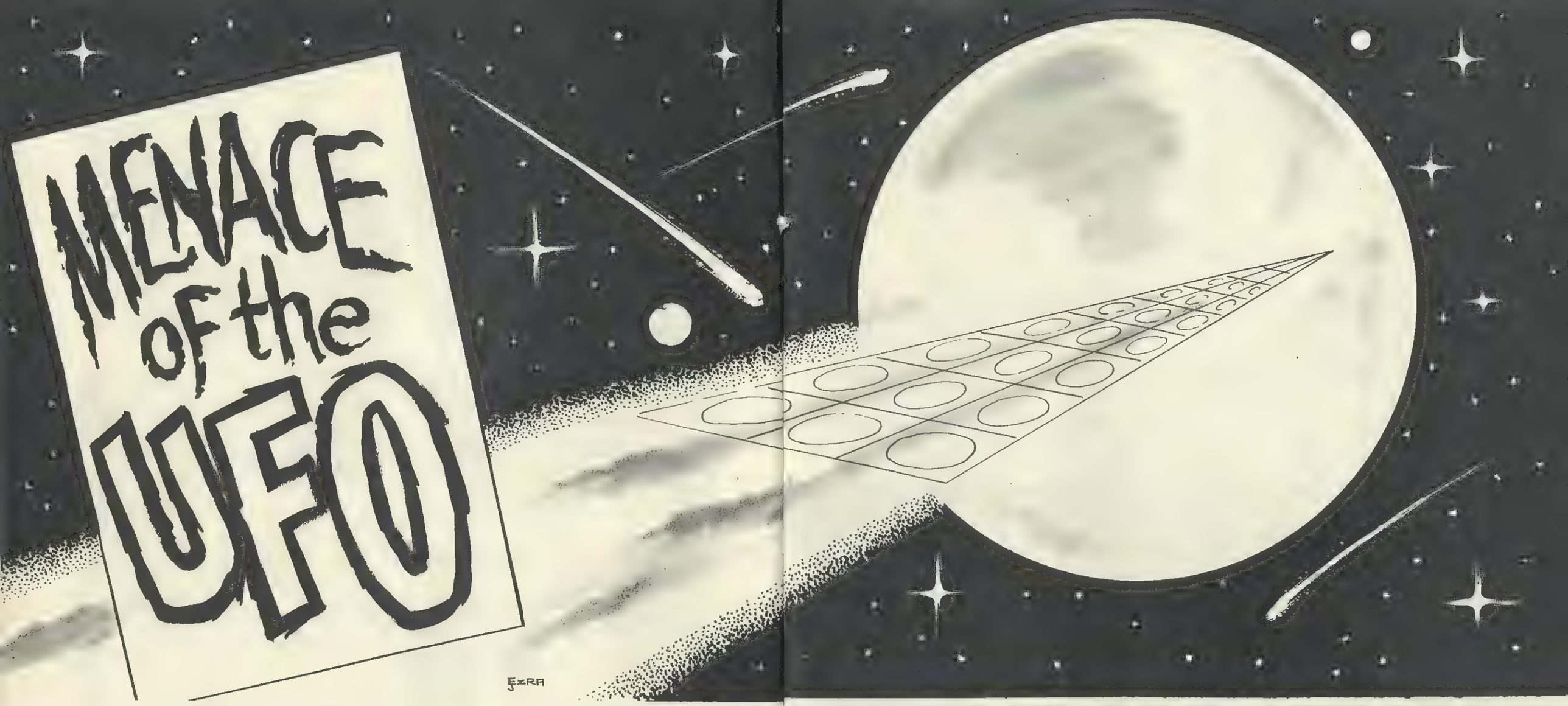
YOU LET ME ALONE! ZERLINA, COME!
HEY, THIS FELLOW IS TOUCHY!
LEAVE HIM BE!
BUT RODD WAS DISCOVERED... THE GUARDS SURROUNDED HIM AND...
RUN! RUN, ZERLINA!
WE HAVE THEM! TAKE THEM TO THE MASTER!


TALUS FELT STRANGE, RECOGNIZING HIS BOYHOOD COMPANION...
HA! HA! MY OLD FRIEND, RODD! THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU SAID I'D NEVER GET ANYTHING IN LIFE THAT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY! HA! HA! YOU SEE HOW WRONG YOU WERE!
WAS I?
JUST THEN...
GENERAL STRATTS REPORTING FROM AFRICA! WE ARE IN FULL CONTROL NOW, SIR!
YOU HEAR THAT? AFRICA IS MINE! HA! HA!
BUT, TALUS... WHAT GOOD IS IT TO YOU?

THE AMERICA'S SURRENDERED! AUSTRALIA IS OURS! SO IS ASIA! THE BRITISH HAVE GIVEN UP...
YOU HEAR THEM? ALL MINE!
WHAT GOOD IS IT TO YOU, TALUS?
Then...
YOU SEE HOW WONDERFUL I AM? SAY IT! NOW OR I'LL KILL YOU!
WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO TO KILL, TALUS DOES IT MAKE YOU HAPPY?

EVERY MAD GENIUS WHO CRAVED TO RAISE HIMSELF ON THE WRECKAGE OF HIS FELLOW MAN, MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT COMPLETION OF HIS PLANS WOULD BRING HIM JOY! NOW TALUS HAD REACHED HIS GOAL!
MINE! I OWN IT ALL! EVERYTHING!
NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO CONQUER! WHAT WILL I DO NOW? WHAT COMES NEXT?
NOTHING LEFT FOR HIM TO DO NOW! THE END OF HIS TRAIL! INTO HIS MIND, THE IDEA MUST HAVE LEAPED AND CLUNG! THE END OF THE TRAIL... AND SUDDENLY...
I GOT WHAT I WANTED! HA! HA! EVERYTHING!


THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF THE TYRANT FLASHED AROUND THE WORLD!
THE END



■ Modern sightings of UFO formations moving at speed of thousands miles an hour are among the most convining evidences of unknown aerial vehicles traversing our skies.

Yet, such UFO fleets have been reported for as long as man has observed the heavens. Scientific and astronomical journals of the past contain many such reports.

1849—The *Report of the British Association* for 1849 contained a letter from Sir Robert Inglis, describing a host of objects seen by him at Gais, Switzerland, on Aug. 8 of that year. He reported seeing thousands of objects, white in color, moving through a cloudless sky. For about 25 minutes, beginning at 3:00 p. m., Inglis and a servant observed the strange forms, the servant discerning something resembling wings on the objects.

1851—On Sept. 4 of this year, the Rev. W. Read, an English astronomer, observed a multitude of self-luminous bodies passing through the field of his telescope. Beginning at 9:30 a. m., the Rev. Mr. Read observed the objects for six hours. Some moved slowly, some rapidly, and all appeared to be confined to a zone which was several degrees wide. Most moved from east to west, but occasionally one was seen traveling from north to south. The total number of objects observed was tremendous. In his report to the Royal Astronomical Society (as published in their *Monthly Notices)* the objects were described as round and sharply defined.

1863—Great numbers of small shining bodies were seen by an observer named Waldner, who reported this observation to the scientific journal *Nature*. Noting that he had notified Dr. Wolf of the Observatory of Zurich in Switzerland, Waldner stated that Dr. Wolf had also observed the objects and has "convinced himself of this strange phenomenon." There was great diversity in the shape of the objects, which were seen on April 27. Some were reported to be star-shaped, with transparent appendages. Dr. Wolf also informed Waldner that similar objects had been seen by Signor Capocci of the Capodimonte Observatory in Naples, Italy, on May 11, 1845.

1870—At Bangalore, India, a Lt. Herschel observed "an unusual phenomenon" on both Oct. 17 and 18. While observing the sun, Herschel noticed dark shadows crossing the solar disc.Away from the sun, there were luminous, moving shapes. During the two days of observation, the objects crossed the face of the sun in a continuous stream. They varied in both size and velocity. Trying a different focusing of his telescope, Herschel saw wing-like appendages on the strange bodies. One object paused and hovered momentarily on the sun's face. Herschel's comments, as printed in the Royal Astronomical Society's *Monthly Notices,* summed up the observations as follows: " . . . the continuous flight, for two whole days, in such numbers, in the upper regions of the air, of beasts that left no stragglers, is a wonder of natural history, if not of astronomy."

1880—The magazine, *Nature,* for May 20, 1880, reported the observation of a "remarkable phenomenon" at Kattenau, near Trakehnen, Germany, on March 22 of that year. "About half an hour before sunrise an enormous number of luminous bodies rose from the horizon and passed in a horizontal direction from east to west. Some of them seemed of the size of a walnut, others resembled the sparks flying from a chimney. They moved through space like a string of beads, and shone with a remarkably brilliant light. The belt containing them appeared about 3 metres in length and 2/3 metre in breadth."

Also in 1880, on Nov. 30, Signor Ricco of the Observatory of Palermo in Italy, saw two long parallel lines of mysterious objects crossing the solar disc at a leisurely pace. A shorter parallel line was also observed. Again, as with earlier observers, Ricco saw what appeared to be wings

of some type on the objects. He elimated their altitude to be at least 5½ miles, far too high for flocks of migrating birds.

1881—A definite display of intelligently-directed movements is evident in a report printed in the Lamoni, Iowa, *Saint's Herald* of Dec. 1, 1881. Stating that the account had originally appeared in a recent copy of the Springfield, Mo., *Evening News,* the *Saint's Herald* reprinted the following story:

WHAT WAS IT?—WONDERFUL FORMATION OF THE STARS—WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

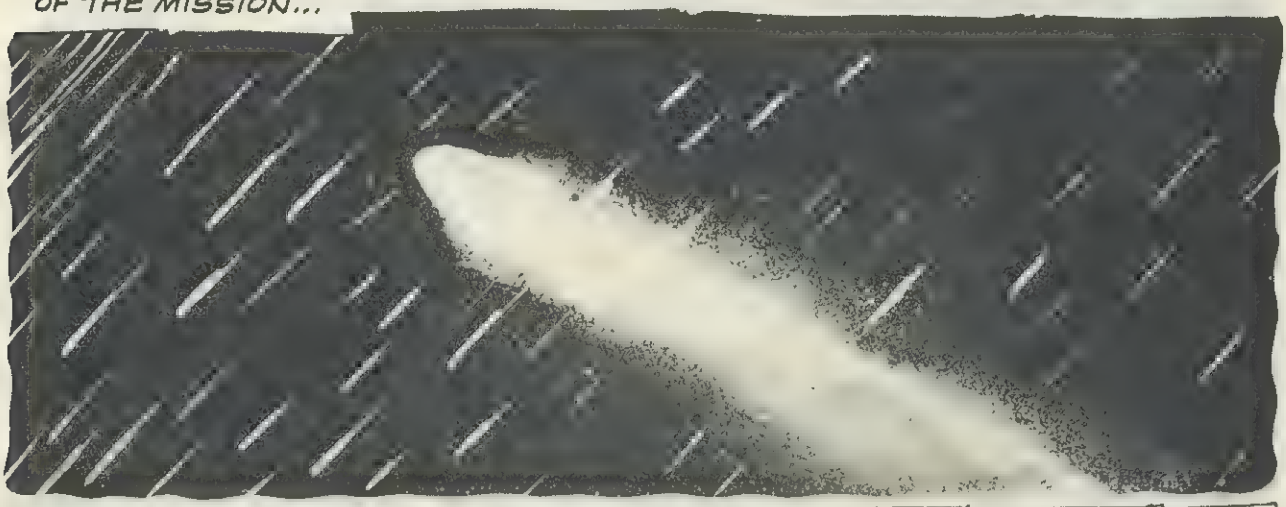
About half past ten o'clock last night, a strangely peculiar sight was observable in the heavens. As the writer is not an astronomer, nor the son of one, he can only give the astronomical formation as it appeared to his verdant eyes. A star was noticed to shoot in the direction, a little north of east, almost directly toward the moon, and when apparently, to an uncultured eye, within two feet of Luna, it stopped; this was followed by four other stars, which took positions a few inches distant, and in a direct line behind the first. This was followed by fully fifty other stars, all of which were wonderfully brilliant, which formed a perfect pyramid, funnel or triangular shape. The shape when completed contained just fifty stars.

In this shape they remained for fully half an hour, apparently stationary, and the sight was truly beautiful and novel in the extreme. At the end of the half hour they began to "break ranks," or "take their departure," and the move was made as systematically as it was formed, and about as coolly and deliberately as a company of well disciplined soldiers would disband or obey an order. The first star to go into position was the first to move away, and it shot toward the moon, which was just coming up, and seemed to be directly over Governor Woodson's house. This star soon disappeared and was lost sight of in the greater light of the moon. It was followed, and deliberately, too, and in equal time, by star after star, until each and every one of fifty had disappeared in the same manner as the first had done. The sight was truly a beautiful one, and such a one as the writer never before beheld. There were five or six others "taking observations" at the time, and all pronounced it an astronomical phenomenon. The whole thing was very deliberate, apparently, coolly and systematically executed. They marched into place as gracefully as the Saxton Rifles, and broke ranks with as much grace and precision. The formation was apparently directly over Governor Woodson's home. The space between the several stars appeared like a few inches, and between the first or tail star and the moon like forty or fifty feet, when it was doubtless countless thousands of miles. What does it mean? Is the question the *News* would like to ask some able-bodied astronomer or scientific individual.

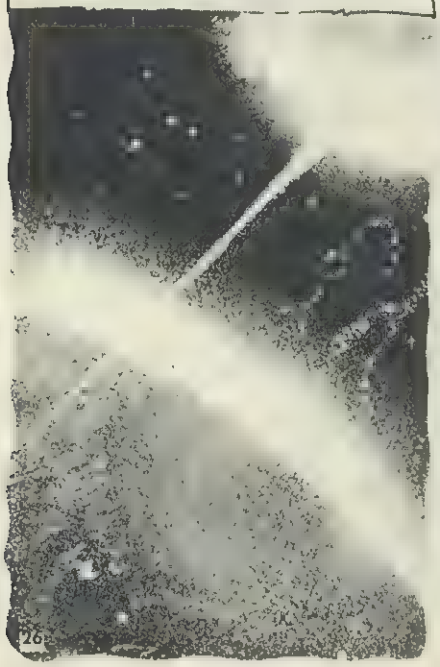
Such mass formations of strange craft constitute definite evidence that our planet has long been host to an array of non-Earthy visitors ●

TERROR FROM THE SKY
THE REMARKABLE STORY OF A BIZARRE AND FANTASTIC JOURNEY BY TWO SPACE CREATURES WITH A STRANGE MISSION--

And SO, THE SPACESHIP HURTLED THROUGH THE VOID! AT A SPEED IMPOSSIBLE TO CALCULATE! IT BROKE THROUGH THE BARRIERS OF TIME AND SPACE AND HEADED ON COURSE TOWARD... **EARTH**! THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF ITS ARRIVAL, FOR IN THE VEIL OF SECRECY THAT SURROUNDED IT LAY THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE MISSION...



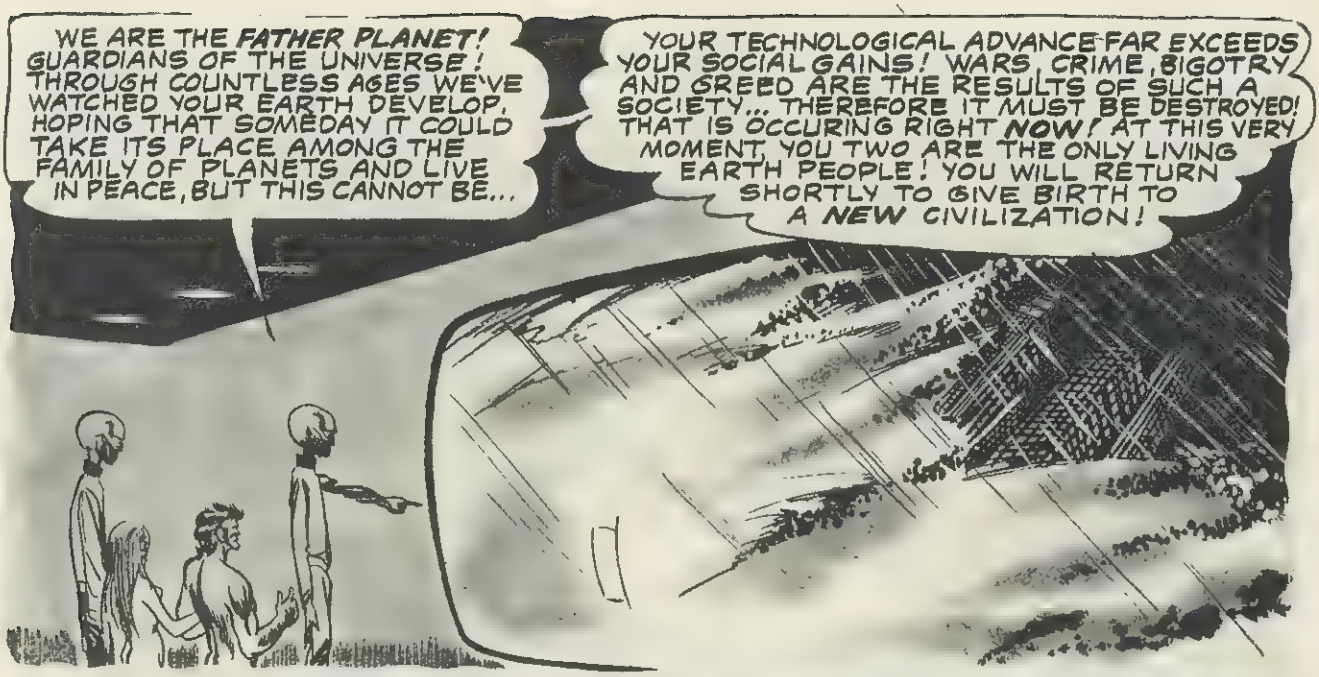
OUTSIDE THE ATMOSPHERE, THE CRAFT BRAKED TO A HALT, AND THOSE ON BOARD WATCHED A BEAM FLICK OUT FROM THE SHIP PLAYING DOWN... DOWN... DOWN!



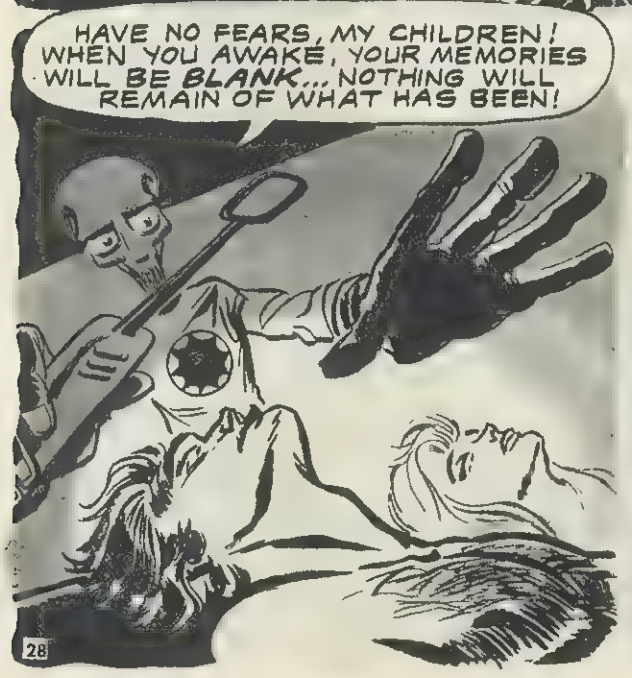
INVISIBLE TO THE EYE, IT APPARENTLY HAD NO EFFECT ON THE SURROUNDING AREA! BUT IT DID ON THE PERSON WHOM IT WAS SEARCHING OUT... ONE, ADAM HUGHES...

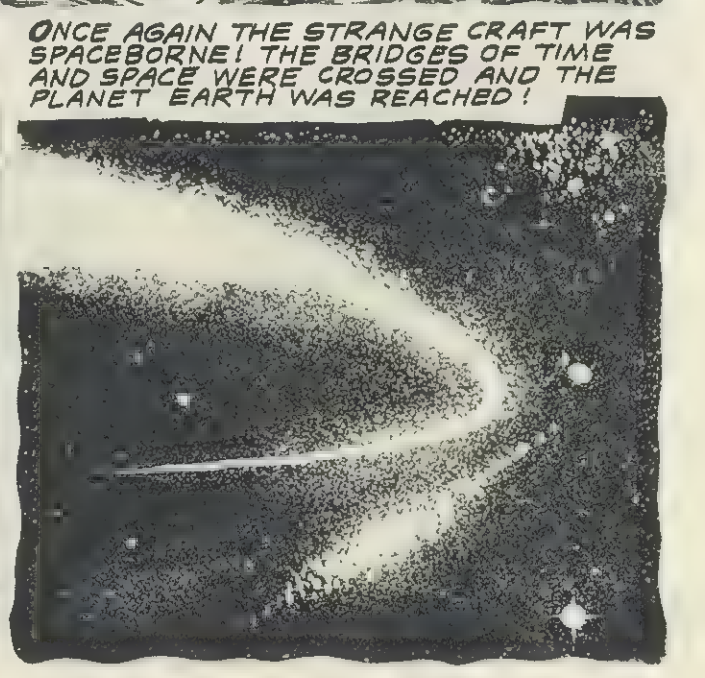
THE BEAM LIFTED HIM OFF THE EARTH AND OUT INTO SPACE TOWARD THE SPACESHIP!

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE COUNTRY, THE BEAM WAS STRIKING AGAIN! THIS TIME ON EVELYN LANG!
ONCE THE TWO EARTH PEOPLE WERE ABOARD, THE SPACE SHIP TURNED AND SPED BACK TOWARD ITS HOME PLANET! THE CAPTIVES STAYED DEEP IN TRANCE DURING THE VOYAGE, NOT REALIZING WHAT WAS HAPPENING. DAYS LATER, WHEN THEY RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS...
TAKE IT EASY, MISS... YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
WHA? OH, WHERE AM I? AND WHO ARE YOU?
I'M ADAM HUGES FROM BOSTON! AND YOU?
EVELYN LANE FROM DETROIT! BUT HOW DID WE GET HERE?
LET'S SEE NOW... I WAS WALKING DOWN THE STREET... WHY, THAT'S THE LAST THING I REMEMBER!
ME, TOO! EXCEPT FOR THAT STRANGE FEELING THAT CAME OVER ME! WE'RE IN SOME SORT OF GLASS CAGE NOW!
HEY! LOOK! WHAT IS IT? IT'S NOT HUMAN!
THEN WE MUST BE ON ANOTHER PLANET!
THAT IS RIGHT! BUT WE MEAN NO HARM!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
YOU TWO ARE THE CHOSEN ONES! SELECTED BY OUR SCIENTISTS TO START YOUR CIVILIZATION OVER AGAIN!


WE ARE THE FATHER PLANET! GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE! THROUGH COUNTLESS AGES WE'VE WATCHED YOUR EARTH DEVELOP, HOPING THAT SOMEDAY IT COULD TAKE ITS PLACE AMONG THE FAMILY OF PLANETS AND LIVE IN PEACE, BUT THIS CANNOT BE...
YOUR TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE FAR EXCEEDS YOUR SOCIAL GAINS! WARS, CRIME, BIGOTRY AND GREED ARE THE RESULTS OF SUCH A SOCIETY... THEREFORE IT MUST BE DESTROYED! THAT IS OCCURING RIGHT NOW! AT THIS VERY MOMENT, YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY LIVING EARTH PEOPLE! YOU WILL RETURN SHORTLY TO GIVE BIRTH TO A NEW CIVILIZATION!

SUDDENLY, THE CRACKLING SOUND OF ELECTRICITY SNAPPED AROUND BOTH EARTHLINGS AS THEY BOTH LOST THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS! THE SCIENTISTS OF THE FATHER PLANET WORKED DEFTLY AND SWIFTLY TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR MISSION!


HAVE NO FEARS, MY CHILDREN! WHEN YOU AWAKE, YOUR MEMORIES WILL BE BLANK... NOTHING WILL REMAIN OF WHAT HAS BEEN!


ONCE AGAIN THE STRANGE CRAFT WAS SPACEBORNE! THE BRIDGES OF TIME AND SPACE WERE CROSSED AND THE PLANET EARTH WAS REACHED!

SLOWLY THE YOUNG MAN AWOKE FROM HIS SLUMBER AND STARED IN AWE AT THE FIGURE AT HIS SIDE...
...THEN HE REACHED OVER, AND SHE AWOKE UNDER HIS TOUCH... SHE SMILED AT THE MAN, AND IN THAT SMILE WAS BORN THE SMILE OF ALL WOMEN TO ALL MEN...
...THEY LOOKED ABOUT AND KNEW THAT IN THE WONDERS THAT LAY ABOUT THEM WAS A PARADISE ON EARTH...
...AND THEN THEY CAME TO REALIZE THAT THEY WERE ALONE... THAT THE FOUNDING OF A CIVILIZATION WAS THEIRS... AND THE WOMAN SHUDDERED AT THE ENORMITY OF THE TASK...
...BUT SHE LEANED UPON THE STRENGTH OF THE MAN AND IT WAS ALL RIGHT... AND TOGETHER THEY WENT OUT INTO THEIR PARADISE, THE EDEN...
...FOR THIS WAS ADAM AND EVE ... AND THIS WAS A NEW BEGINNING ... PERHAPS THIS TIME MAN CAN GROW AND TAKE ITS PLACE IN THE FAMILY OF PLANETS WITH DIGNITY AND EMPATHY FOR ALL BEINGS!
THE BEGINNING!

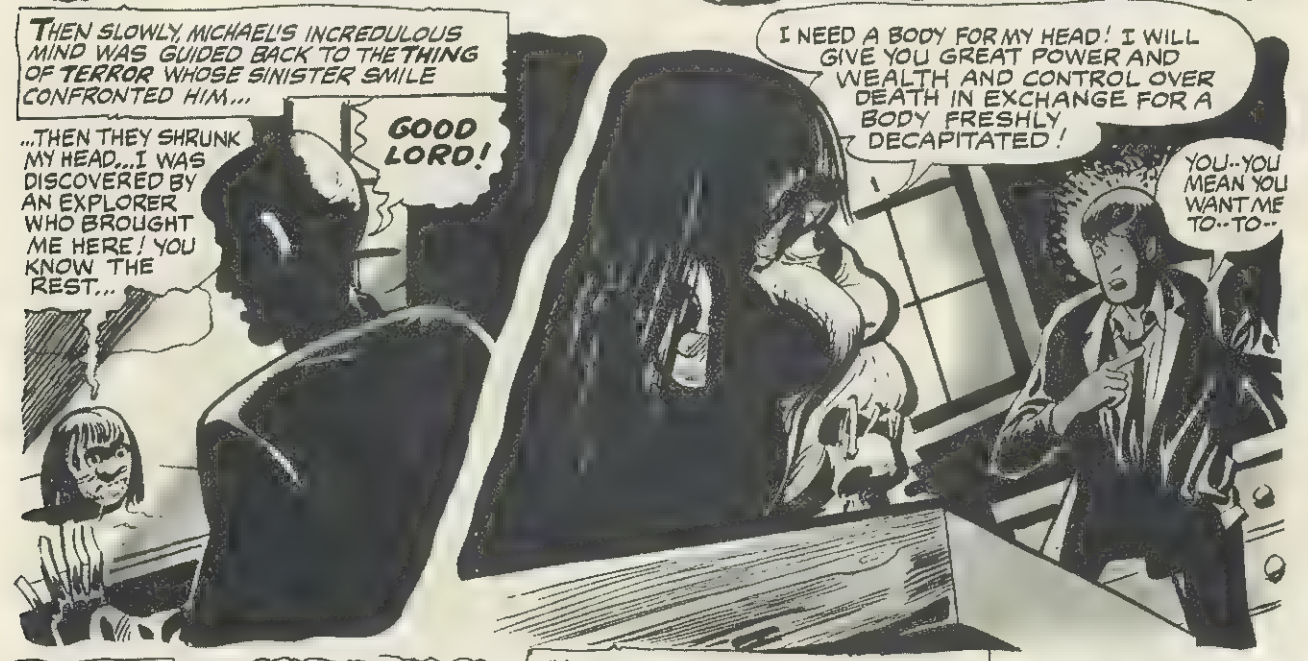
THE SHRUNKEN MONSTER

AH-H-H!! IT...IT'S A HEAD! A--A--SHRUNKEN HEAD!
MICHAEL CAST THE PUTRID MASS UPON THE TABLE. HE LOOKED AT IT IN FEARFUL FASCINATION...
IT'S GLOWING... AND THE EYES ARE BLINKING!! OH, NO--I MUST BE DREAMING!
THE GROTESQUE MOUTH BEGAN TO OPEN AND SIGH...
MICHAEL STEARNS ...COME CLOSER AND LISTEN TO MY STORY!
NO! NO! I MUST BE GOING MAD!

MANY MOONS AGO I WAS PRIESTESS IN THE SUGALI TRIBE OF THE ORINOCO HEAD-HUNTERS, BUT I WAS IN LEAGUE WITH THE DEVIL-GOD! I HAD POWERS OF EVIL WHICH MADE MY TRIBESMEN FEAR ME!
MICHAEL'S HYPNOTIZED MIND WAS FORCED ACROSS THE SEA AND INTO THE TEEMING JUNGLES TO WITNESS THE SATANIC POWERS OF THE PRIESTESS!
STOP HER! SHE'S TURNING MY SON INTO A MONSTER!
I WILL KILL YOU!

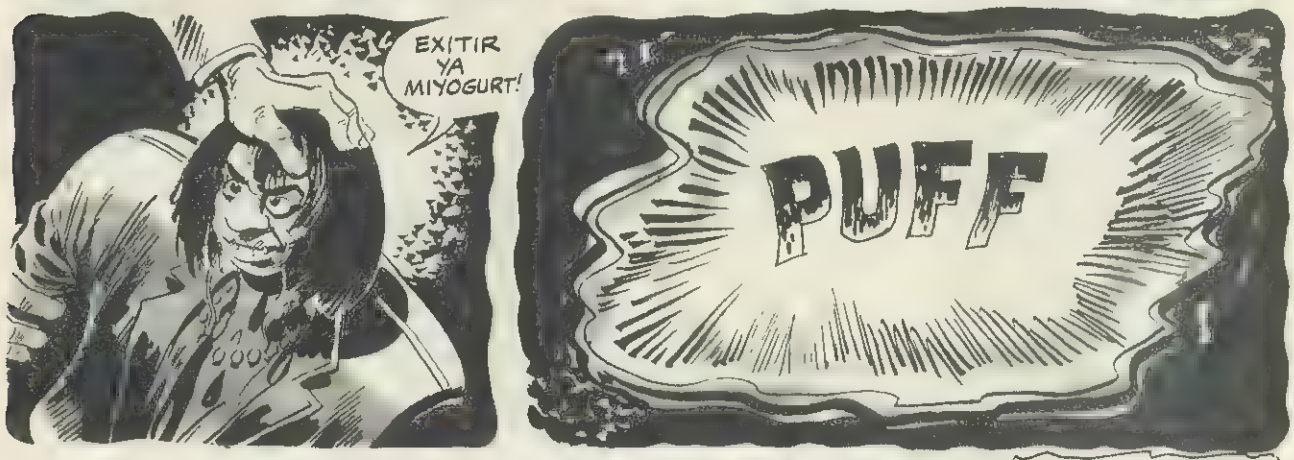
IT IS DONE! HEH-HE-HEE! NOW I SHALL RULE WITH MY EVIL POWER--ALL SHALL BOW DOWN TO ME!
SEIZE HER!

FOOLS! KILL ME IF YOU THINK I CAN DIE! BUT FIRST I PUT THE CURSE OF LIVING DEATH UPON YOU ALL! YOU SHALL SLEEP WHILE THE FLESH ROTS OFF YOUR BONES, AND YOU SHALL NEVER RISE UNTIL I RETURN AND BID YOU TO DO SO...
HA
HA
HA


THEN SLOWLY, MICHAEL'S INCREDULOUS MIND WAS GUIDED BACK TO THE THING OF TERROR WHOSE SINISTER SMILE CONFRONTED HIM...
...THEN THEY SHRUNK MY HEAD...I WAS DISCOVERED BY AN EXPLORER WHO BROUGHT ME HERE! YOU KNOW THE REST...
GOOD LORD!
I NEED A BODY FOR MY HEAD! I WILL GIVE YOU GREAT POWER AND WEALTH AND CONTROL OVER DEATH IN EXCHANGE FOR A BODY FRESHLY DECAPITATED!
YOU..YOU MEAN YOU WANT ME TO..TO..

THE THOUGHT OF THIS HORRID PROPOSAL FILLED MICHAEL WITH TERROR! TO KILL FOR THIS THING WAS MORE THAN HIS MIND COULD CONTAIN... YET...
YES! I'LL DO IT! POWER AND WEALTH WILL BE MINE! WHAT IS ONE LIFE, ONE MURDER!
MICHAEL APPROACHES HIS BEAUTIFUL VICTIM WITH VISIONS OF WEALTH...

THE UGLY KNIFE DOES ITS BRUTAL WORK...
THAT'S OVER! NOW I MUST GET BACK WITHOUT BEING SEEN...
YOU HAVE DONE WELL! NOW FOLLOW MY DIRECTIONS! FIRST PLACE MY HEAD ON THE BODY!
AS THE FOUL HEAD WAS PUT UPON THE LOVELY BODY, A STRANGE AND WEIRD MOAN WAS HEARD, LIKE A DEMON HOWLING AT THE MOON... THEN...
NOMO OS DIAKET! TIMA...

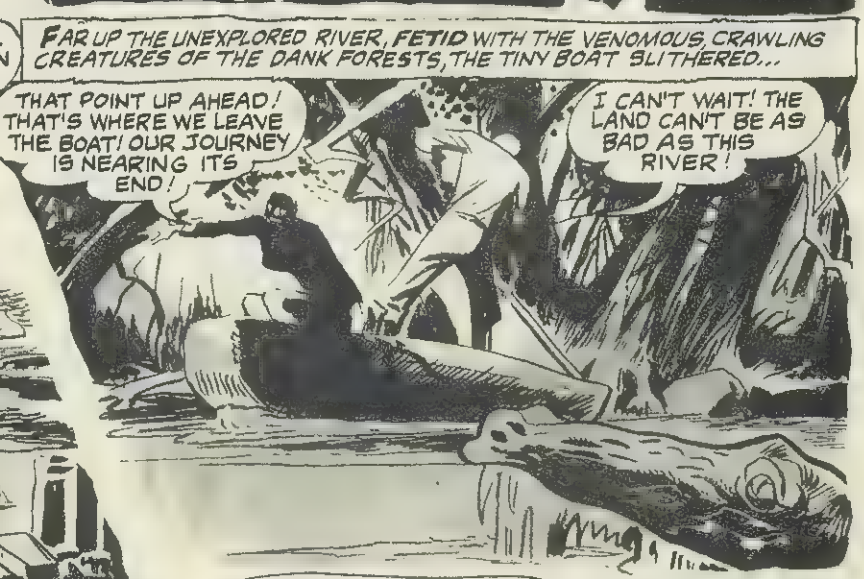

EXITIR YA MIYOGURT!
PUFF

WHEN THE BLINDING LIGHT DIMMED, MICHAEL BEHELD THE GHASTLY APPARITION WHICH HE HAD HELPED TO CREATE...
I- I'VE N-NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO HORRIBLE!
OUR WORK HAS JUST BEGUN. WE MUST SET SAIL FOR MY VILLAGE WHERE I SHALL EXERSIZE THE POWERS WHICH ARE MINE BY OCCULT KNOWLEDGE! YOU SHALL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS, MICHAEL!

SHE HAS A PRETTY FIGURE--I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER FACE?
PROBABLY SOME CELEBRITY AND WANTS PRIVACY! THE STEWARD SAYS SHE'S GOING TO TAKE ALL HER MEALS IN HER CABIN!

EVERY TIME THAT VEILED WOMAN PASSES I GET A HORRIBLE CHILL!
I GET THE SAME CREEPY FEELING!

AH! AT LAST THE PORT! I CAN FEEL THE EVIL POWERS SURGING WITHIN ME! SOON REVENGE AND POWER SHALL BE MINE!
MUST... MUST I GO WITH YOU?


FAR UP THE UNEXPLORED RIVER, FETID WITH THE VENOMOUS, CRAWLING CREATURES OF THE DANK FORESTS, THE TINY BOAT SLITHERED...
THAT POINT UP AHEAD! THAT'S WHERE WE LEAVE THE BOAT! OUR JOURNEY IS NEARING ITS END!
I CAN'T WAIT! THE LAND CAN'T BE AS BAD AS THIS RIVER!

AAAH-HH! L-LOOK! THOSE THINGS! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
DO NOT FEAR THEM! THEY ARE CREATURES OF EVIL AND MY FRIENDS! AS LONG AS YOU ARE WITH ME NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU! ALONE, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED THE MOMENT YOU SET FOOT IN THE JUNGLE!

MY VILLAGE! AFTER ALL THIS TIME I HAVE RETURNED AS I PROMISED, NOW I SHALL RULE, AND YOU, MICHAEL SHALL BE REWARDED!
BUT--BUT IT'S DESERTED! NOT A LIVING SOUL ANYWHERE NEAR HERE!

BUT THE VILLAGE WAS NOT DESERTED! CAVERNOUS EYES WATCHED WITHOUT SEEING--SKULLS IN A DEATH-LIKE SLEEP OCCUPIED EVERY FILTHY HOVEL...
MY CURSE! IT WORKED!
SKELETONS! A WHOLE VILLAGE FULL OF THEM!
NOW TO MAKE THE DEAD RISE!! AID ME YOU EVIL SPIRITS AND CREATURES OF THE JUNGLE! ARRA BIANITES! SARTORIS ARRISBY!
DOSID MAGYOSBAT!

ACCURSED RACE!!! NOW DO MY BIDDING... DANCE!!! DANCE THE DANCE OF THE LIVING DEAD!!
OH!! HOW HORRID! I MUST GET AWAY! NO WEALTH IS WORTH THIS...

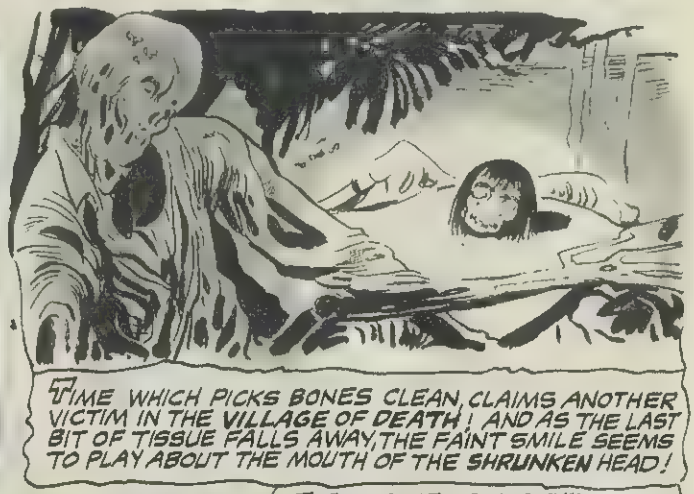
DANCE, FOOLS! HEEEE-- HE-HE!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
THE MAD, WILD DANCE OF THE LIVING DEAD CONTINUED THRU THE NIGHT, AND THE MANIACAL THROBBING OF THE DRUMS CARRIED TO EVERY CORNER OF THE JUNGLE...

...AND REACHED THE EARS OF HORRIFIED NATIVES MILES AWAY...
DRUMS COME FROM THE VILLAGE OF DEATH! EVIL SPIRITS ARE LOOSE TONIGHT!
BOOM BOOM
WE MUST SACRIFICE TO GODS! THEY ARE IN ANGER!
HEEEEE! DANCE AND BOW BEFORE ME! BOW I SAY!! HEEE! HEE!
I CAN'T STAND THIS...I...I MUST DO SOMETHING!

THE MADNESS SNAPPED THE DELICATE TISSUES OF MICHAEL'S BRAIN... HE PANICKED AND...
I--I'LL KILL HER...THEN MAYBE THE DANCING WILL STOP! I--I MUST STOP IT!
NO! NO!! DON'T! I'VE OFFERED YOU RICHES.. DON'T BE A FOOL!
ARRRR

THEY--THEY'RE COMING AFTER ME! NO! STOP.. I'M YOUR FRIEND-- SHE WAS EVIL--- NO!!
HA HA

L-LET ME GO, YOU FOOLS!
AIEE EEEEEE

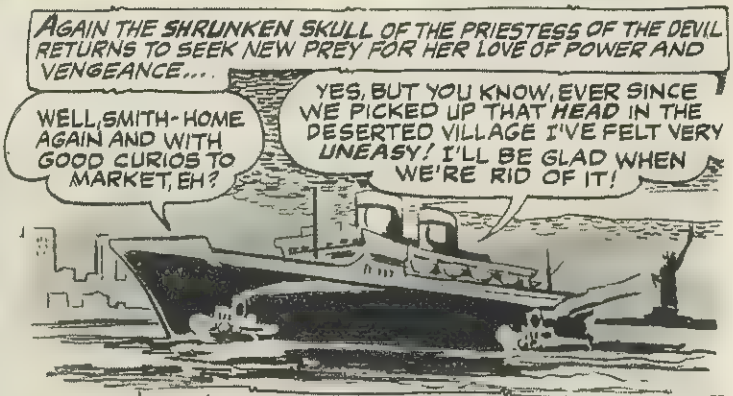

TIME WHICH PICKS BONES CLEAN, CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTIM IN THE VILLAGE OF DEATH! AND AS THE LAST BIT OF TISSUE FALLS AWAY, THE FAINT SMILE SEEMS TO PLAY ABOUT THE MOUTH OF THE SHRUNKEN HEAD!

And THE DAYS PASSED AS THE MURKY DEPTHS OF THE JUNGLE TRIED TO HIDE THE HIDEOUS SCENE OF TERROR AND HORROR...
THE SILENCE OF THE EVIL VILLAGE REMAINS UNBROKEN UNTIL...
LOOK, SMITH! A VILLAGE!
SEEMS TO BE ONE OF THE SUGALI TRIBES! THIS COULD BE INTERESTING!

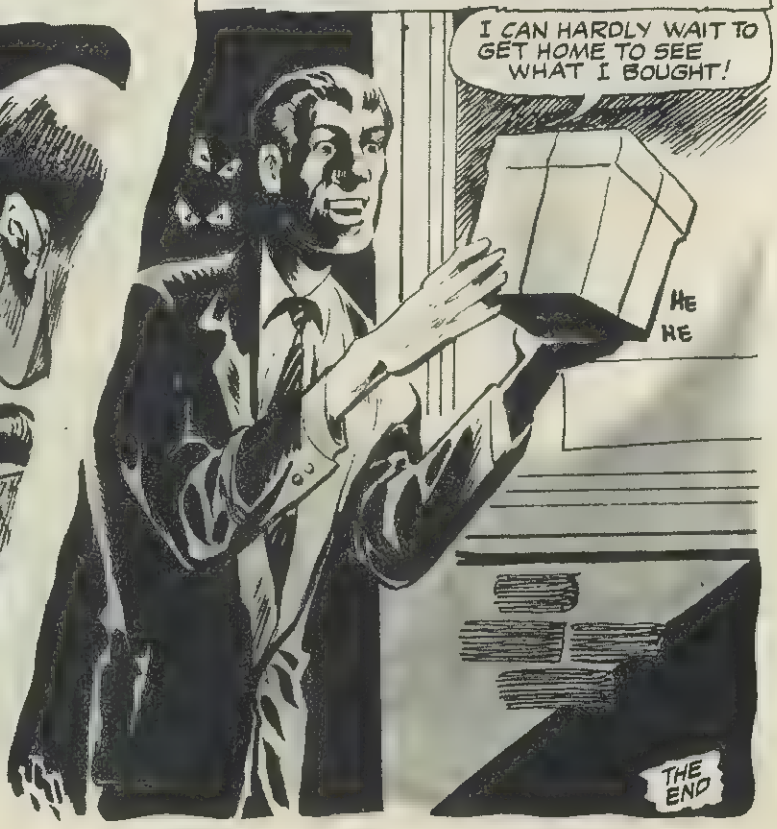
COULD HAVE BEEN A PLAGUE, SO MANY OF THEM!
EASY TO SEE IT WASN'T WAR! THEY'VE ALL GOT THEIR HEADS!
WE OUGHT TO FIND SOMETHING OF VALUE HERE ANYWAY!

THEN, AS IF PLANNED, THE EVIL SKULL WAS FOUND!
LOOK! A SHRUNKEN HEAD! THESE ARE VALUABLE! WHAT LUCK!

IT'S A BEAUTY!


AGAIN THE SHRUNKEN SKULL OF THE PRIESTESS OF THE DEVIL RETURNS TO SEEK NEW PREY FOR HER LOVE OF POWER AND VENGEANCE....
WELL, SMITH - HOME AGAIN AND WITH GOOD CURIOS TO MARKET, EH?
YES, BUT YOU KNOW, EVER SINCE WE PICKED UP THAT HEAD IN THE DESERTED VILLAGE I'VE FELT VERY UNEASY! I'LL BE GLAD WHEN WE'RE RID OF IT!

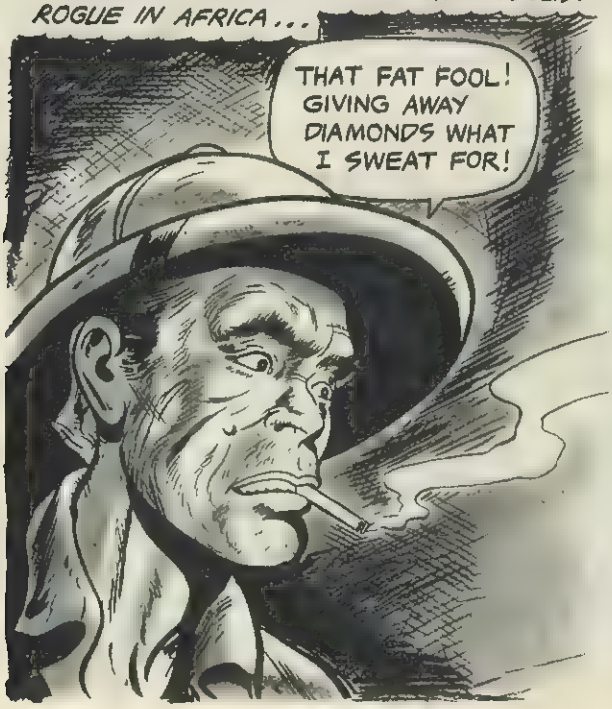
FIFTEEN DOLLARS ONCE! FIFTEEN DOLLARS TWICE! SOLD TO THE GENTLEMAN! I'M SURE YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED, SIR!


And ANOTHER UNSUSPECTING VICTIM OF THE SPIRITS OF EVIL IS TEMPTED BY FATE TOWARD POWER AND OCCULT KNOWLEDGE...
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GET HOME TO SEE WHAT I BOUGHT!
HE HE
THE END

The GAME CALLED DYING

"He mates, and checks, and slays, and one by one back in the closet lays." Omar.

Shifty Joe Yanner, who could dispute any man's claim to being the biggest rogue in Africa...



Hates the Dutchman, who owns two thirds of the diamond mine and the affections of Yala...

SUCH WAS THE UNSAVORY SITUATION! ONE NIGHT WHEN THE DAYS DIGGING WAS BEING DIVIDED...
YA, WE DO GOOD TODAY! GOOD STONES! WE GOT BEST LIDDLE DIAMOND MINE IN AFRICA, I TINK!
C'MON, DUTCHMAN! GIMME MY SHARE!
YA...HERE! ONE THIRD FOR YOU, SHIFTY! I GEEP TWO THIRDS!
YEAH, LIKE ALWAYS, YUH ROTTEN HUNK OF BLUBBER!
YA, JOE, YOU DON'T FOOL ME! I KNOW YOU HATE ME! HAH-HAH— MAYBE SOME DAY I GIVE YOU MORE DIAMONDS. MAYBE EVEN GIVE YOU LIDDLE GIRL, HUH?
I WANTA BE AROUND WHEN YOU GIVE SOMETHING AWAY, DUTCHMAN!
WE BLAY CHESS NOW, HUH? FORGET OUR TROUBLES! TONIGHT I BEAT YOU LIKE ALWAYS!
CHESS
MIGHT AS WELL PLAY THE CRUMMY GAME! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP FROM GOING NUTS IN THIS JUNGLE HOLE!
HAH-HAH—PRETTY SOON RIVER STEAMER COME, JOE, BRING YOU SOME NEW PINUP PICTURES, YA!
YA, I TINK I GOT YOU CHECKMATE SOON, JOE! YOU GOT NO BRAINS FOR CHESS!
I GOT BRAINS ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF YOU— WHEN THE TIME COMES!

THE WITCHE'S BROTH BEGINS TO BUBBLE! A FEW NIGHTS LATER...
YA, NEFER WAS I SO TIRED, JOE! I TINK I — YAWN— TURN IN!
YOU'RE TIRED! HAH! I DO ALL THE WORK AROUND HERE, DON'T I?
LATER, JOE GOES FOR A WALK BY THE RIVER, HIS THOUGHTS AS DEEP AND MUDDY AS THE STREAM...
I AIN'T GONNA TAKE MUCH MORE OF THE DUTCHMAN! I GOTTA ACT SOON, BEFORE THE RIVER BOAT ARRIVES! ONLY THE DUTCHMAN IS PRETTY SMART!
WHEN YALA FINISHES BATHING...
HI, YALA! I BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! THAT WAS A— HEH-HEH— GOOD SHOW!
YOU! SPYING ON YALA!
YALA! THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE I'M GONNA TAKE AWAY FROM THE DUTCHMAN! MIGHT AS WELL START NOW!
C'MON, BABY! PUT THE KNIFE AWAY! I WON'T HURT YOU, HONEST! GET WISE...
STAY AWAY, YOU DIRTY PIG! YALA CUT!
OWWW — YOU LITTLE DEVIL! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
YOU WILL PAY— WHEN I TELL THE DUTCHMAN!

JOE'S BRAIN REELS IN A TERRIBLE ANGER, AS THOUGH THE BLOOD WERE OOZING FROM HIS VERY SOUL...
I'LL GET THEM! I'LL GET THEM BOTH! I'LL GET EVEN RIGHT NOW— TONIGHT!
MINUTES LATER...
I GOT TO DO IT FAST BEFORE I LOSE MY NERVE! THE FAT CLOWN DOESN'T DESERVE TO LIVE!
HUH! JOE! NO—DON'T GAAAAAA—
YALA HEARS THE SHOT...
SWINE! YOU KILL MY DUTCHMAN! I KILL YOU!
NO, YALA! LISTEN! WE CAN WORK OUT A DEAL— PUT THAT KNIFE AWAY!
I KILL— KILL!
YOU CRAZY LITTLE WENCH! OUCH! CUT IT OUT, I TELL YA! I'LL SHOOT!
MAYBE JOE MEANT TO KILL HER, MAYBE NOT! WHO KNOWS...
OWWWW— I—AHHHH...
YALA!

JOE WORKS LATE THAT NIGHT...
THERE! THE CURRENT OUGHTA CARRY 'EM DOWNSTREAM! OR MAYBE THE CROCS WILL GET THEM! THAT WOULD BE BEST!
AND LATER...
I GOTTA HAVE A STORY WHEN THE RIVER STEAMER COMES! I'LL SAY THEY BOTH DIED OF FEVER! YEAH, THAT'S IT! AND I HADDA BURY 'EM DEEP IN THE JUNGLE!
ALL MINE NOW! I'M RICH, ONLY I GOTTA GET OUT OF AFRICA! WISH THAT BOAT WAS DUE TOMORROW 'STEAD OF NEXT WEEK!
BUT THE HOURS HANG LIKE LEADEN WEIGHTS...
I'M GOING NUTS! I K-KEEP THINKING ABOUT THE DUTCHMAN'S FACE JUST BEFORE I SHOT HIM! I GOTTA DO SOMETHING!
I KNOW! I'LL PLAY THAT BLASTED GAME WITH MYSELF! AT LEAST IT'LL PASS THE TIME!
CHESS
HAH—HAH— THIS IS ONE TIME I'LL BEAT THAT CURSED DUTCHMAN!

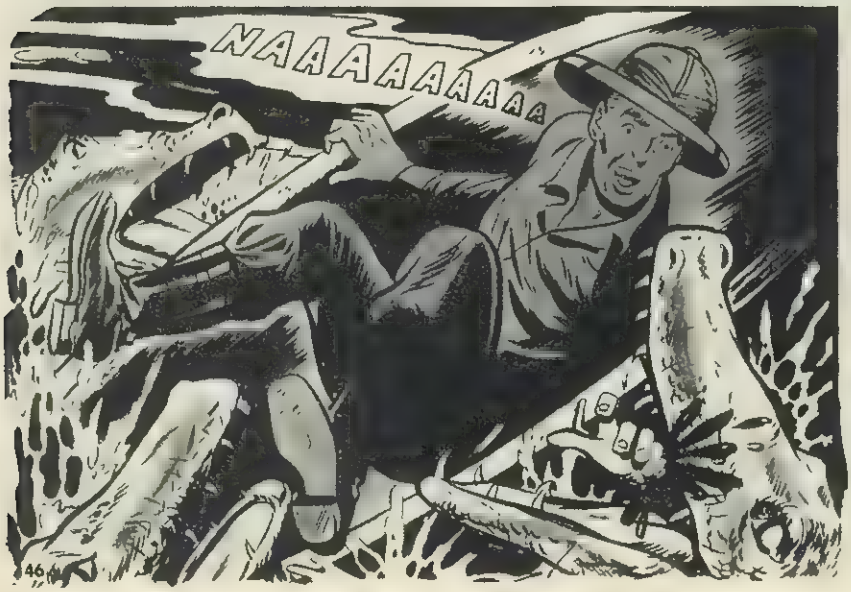
4 ROARING LIKE A CATARACT IN JOE'S EARS! THE ROOM FILLS WITH FOG — AND OUT OF THE FOG...
YA, JOE! WE HAVE LIDDLE GAME!
AGHHH! THAT HAND! THE D-DUTCHMAN...
YIIIII — I'M SEEING THINGS! THAT H-HAND AIN'T REALLY THERE! IT C-CAN'T BE!
YOU WAS ALWAYS A COWARD, JOE! YA! NOW COME AND HAVE LIDDLE GAME!
I GIVE YOU CHANCE, JOE! FOR YOUR LIFE, YA! YOU BEAT THE DUTCHMAN ONE GAME AND I LET YOU LIFF! YA?
OKAY, DUTCHMAN! I'LL P-PLAY YOU! ONLY IT AIN'T FAIR! Y-YOU'RE TOO GOOD!
YOU BLAY, JOE! WE SEE!
5 SO, HIS HANDS GREASY WITH THE SWEAT OF FEAR, JOE PLAYS FOR HIS LIFE...
I—I DUNNO! CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT! IF I MAKE ONE MORE MISTAKE...
YOUR MOVE, YA!
WHAT!
YOUR QUEEN, JOE!

REMORSELESSLY, PIECE BY PIECE, THE HAND CLEARS THE BOARD...
I—I AIN'T GOT A CHANCE! THAT—THAT THING IS GONNA KILL ME!
THEN THE SUDDEN MIRACLE...
I GOT YOU! I WIN! CHECKMATE!
YA, JOE! YOU WIN!
I FINALLY BEAT YA, YA STUPID DUTCHMAN! NOW YOU GOT TO LEMME GO! YA PROMISED!
SURE, JOE! I PROMISED, YA!
I GEEP PROMISE, JOE—FOR NOW! YA! GOOT PYE, JOE!
MINUTES LATER...
IT'S GONE! AND I'M GETTING OUTA HERE BEFORE IT COMES BACK! TONIGHT!
NO TIME TO WAIT FOR THE STEAMER! THIS OLD DUGOUT AIN'T MUCH, BUT MAYBE SHE'LL GET ME DOWN TO THE PORT! AWAY FROM THAT—(SHUDDER)—HAND!

AN HOUR LATER...
CROCS! NEVER SAW SO MANY BEFORE! THEY'RE AFTER SOMETHING IN THE WATER!
THE B-BODIES!

JOE'S SCREAM BREAKS THE JUNGLE QUIET AT THE SIGHT OF THE DUTCHMAN...
EEEEEEAAAAA!
HIS RIGHT HAND! G—GONE!

THEN...
YOU MADE LIDDLE MISTAKE, JOE! I'M STILL HERE! YA!
NO! DON'T! AHHHH— SAVE ME! THE CROCS...


NAAAAAAAAAA

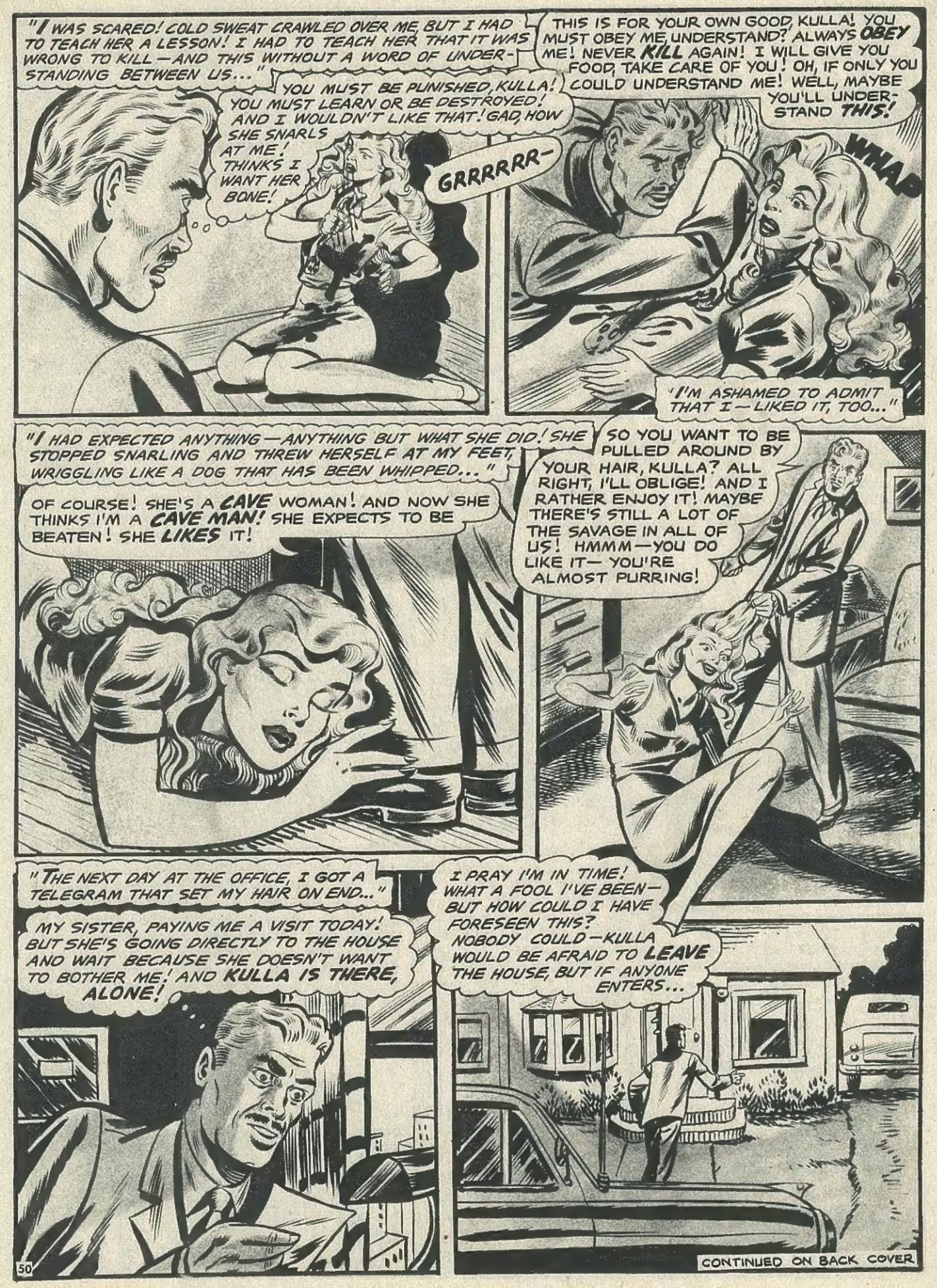
CHECKMATE, JOE! YA!
The End

IN A DINGY PRECINCT STATION, A SWEATING MAN CONFESSES TO A BLOODY MURDER! WHY? WHY DID HE KILL A WOMAN IN SUCH BRUTAL FASHION? HE EXPLAINS, BUT AS HE SPEAKS, THE COPS SHOW THEIR DISBELIEF! NOBODY EVER KILLS FOR SUCH A REASON, THEY SAY! SEND HIM TO THE PRISON OBSERVATION WARD — HE'S NUTS, PSYCHO, JUST PLAIN CRAZY! BUT IS HE? IS THE WEIRD STORY HE TELLS ONLY THE IMAGININGS OF A TORTURED MIND, OR IS HE TELLING THE TRUTH? **TALCOTT POWERS**, ACCUSED OF MURDER, KNOWS THEY DON'T BELIEVE HIM! HE DOESN'T REALLY BLAME THEM A LOT! IT **IS** A CRAZY STORY! BUT LET'S PRETEND THAT **YOU** ARE THERE, AN IMAGINARY JURY, AND IT IS UP TO YOU TO DECIDE! PUT YOURSELF IN THIS DOOMED MAN'S PLACE AND MEET **KULLA, THE ATAVAR**...

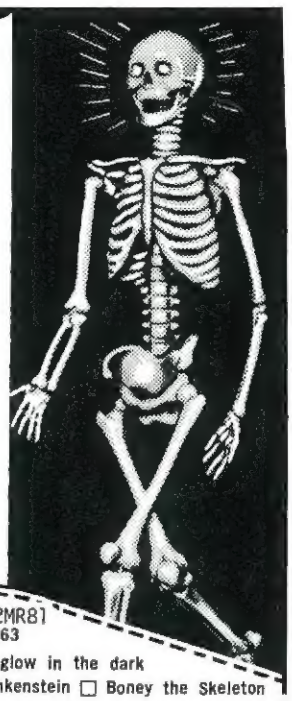
HAMMER OF EVIL

"THE BLAST WAS A BEAUTY! WHAT WAS BETTER, IT DID WHAT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO DO..."
LOOKS LIKE WE BROUGHT IT OFF, NICK! MOST OF THE BLAST WAS DIRECTED DOWNWARD INSTEAD OF LATERALLY!
GOOD WORK, TALCOTT!
YOU CAN TOPPLE MORE BUILDINGS THAT WAY THAN WITH THE CONVENTIONAL BOMB, THAT'S SURE!
"LATER, WHILE EXPLORING THE BOMB SITE, WE MADE AN INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY..."
GREAT SCOTT, POWERS, LOOK AT THIS! A WOMAN FROZEN INTO THAT CHUNK OF GLACIAL ICE! PREHISTORIC, BY THE LOOKS OF HER!
THEN THE DAME IS THAT OLD, TOO? BOY, SHE DON'T LOOK IT!
NO QUESTION! THE BLAST TORE DEEP INTO THE MOUNTAIN! THIS ICE MUST BE AT LEAST HALF A MILLION YEARS OLD!
"WE DID NOT DISTURB THE ICE AROUND THE BODY..."
WELL, SHE CAN'T! SHE'S BEEN DEAD A LONG TIME—AND EVEN A WOMAN CAN'T TALK WHEN SHE'S DEAD!
FANTASTIC! UTTERLY AND ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC! A PREHISTORIC WOMAN! I WONDER WHO SHE WAS, WHAT THEY CALLED HER? IF ONLY SHE COULD SPEAK AND TELL US!
NOW WAIT A MINUTE, BUSTER! WHAT'S ALL THIS GOT TO DO WITH THE DAME YOU MURDERED? OR MAYBE IT WAS THE SAME WOMAN, MAYBE?
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT! IT WAS THE SAME WOMAN! NO, I'M NOT CRAZY! YOU SEE, I BROUGHT HER BACK TO LIFE! HER NAME WAS KULLA!
BROTHER! GET HIM A YO-YO!
"I USED DYNAMITE AND ARRANGED A CONVENIENT ROCK SLIDE! THE OTHERS THOUGHT THE BODY WAS COVERED UP AGAIN, LOST FOREVER, AND I LET THEM THINK SO! BUT LATER, IN MY HOME..."
"LEFT ALONE WITH MY PRIZE, I GLOATED! BUT NOT FOR LONG, BECAUSE I HAD TO WORK FAST..."
WHEW, WHAT YOU GOT IN THERE, MR. POWERS? SOME OF THAT ALASKAN ICE? IT'S STARTING TO MELT!
HAH-HAH! I BET IT'S A CRATE OF THOSE BIG SALMON!
YEAH, SURE! IT'S SALMON! BUT TAKE IT EASY—AND HURRY UP, WILL YOU!
HMM—THE ICE IS MELTING! I SHOULD HAVE USED DRY ICE, BUT THERE WAS SO LITTLE TIME! BUT SHIPPING HER IN A REFRIGERATOR CAR WAS SMART!

"I WORKED LIKE A FIEND OVER HER! I USED A HYPO OF ADRENALIN, INJECTED DIRECTLY INTO HER HEART! I EVEN USED ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION— ANYTHING TO MAKE A CRAZY DREAM COME TRUE..."
S-SHE MOVED! SHE'S OPENING HER EYES! I DID IT! I'VE BROUGHT HER BACK TO LIFE AFTER FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS! SHE MUST HAVE BEEN IN PERFECT HEALTH WHEN SHE WAS TRAPPED IN THAT ICE FLOE...
OHHH...
HERE, PUT THIS ON, WHOEVER YOU ARE! I DON'T—(CHUCKLE)—WANT YOU DYING OF DOUBLE PNEUMONIA! NOT NOW! CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME? DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING? CAN YOU SPEAK?
UHHH— KULLA! KULLA! KULLA!
"AFTER A MINUTE I GOT IT..."
OF COURSE! YOUR NAME IS KULLA! HMM—I WONDER WHAT IT MEANS? BUT I SUPPOSE YOUR PEOPLE DIDN'T HAVE A REAL LANGUAGE, DID THEY? ONLY RUDE SOUNDS!
KULLA—KULLA—KULLA! OWWWW—
"I DRESSED HER AND LEFT HER READING COMIC BOOKS! LOOKING AT THE PICTRES AT LEAST..."
SEEMS CONTENT ENOUGH NOW! BUT I MUST BE VERY CAREFUL! BETTER LOCK HER IN!
"I MADE ONE TERRIBLE MISTAKE! I FORGOT TO FEED HER! AND WHEN I GOT BACK..."
GREAT GODFREY! PRINCE, MY DOG! DEAD! AND HORRIBLY MANGLED! HIS HIND LEGS GONE!
THE DOOR! SMASHED LIKE IT WAS MADE OF MATCH WOOD! BUT SHE'S IN THERE AND— OH, NO! IT'S HORRIBLE, SICKENING! BUT I CAN ONLY BLAME MYSELF!
SHE'S EATING THE DOG! RAW, UNCOOKED! BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW BETTER, OF COURSE! SHE'S AN ATAVAR, A CREATURE FROM ANOTHER TIME, OUT OF THE DIM PAST! SHE WAS HUNGRY AND SHE KILLED THE FIRST THING SHE SAW!
GRRRR—


"I WAS SCARED! COLD SWEAT CRAWLED OVER ME, BUT I HAD TO TEACH HER A LESSON! I HAD TO TEACH HER THAT IT WAS WRONG TO KILL—AND THIS WITHOUT A WORD OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US..."
YOU MUST BE PUNISHED, KULLA! YOU MUST LEARN OR BE DESTROYED! AND I WOULDN'T LIKE THAT! GAD, HOW SHE SNARLS AT ME! THINKS I WANT HER BONE!
GRRRRRR—
THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, KULLA! YOU MUST OBEY ME, UNDERSTAND? ALWAYS OBEY ME! NEVER KILL AGAIN! I WILL GIVE YOU FOOD, TAKE CARE OF YOU! OH, IF ONLY YOU COULD UNDERSTAND ME! WELL, MAYBE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THIS!
WHAP
"I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT THAT I—LIKED IT, TOO..."
"I HAD EXPECTED ANYTHING—ANYTHING BUT WHAT SHE DID! SHE STOPPED SNARLING AND THREW HERSELF AT MY FEET, WRIGGLING LIKE A DOG THAT HAS BEEN WHIPPED..."
OF COURSE! SHE'S A CAVE WOMAN! AND NOW SHE THINKS I'M A CAVE MAN! SHE EXPECTS TO BE BEATEN! SHE LIKES IT!
SO YOU WANT TO BE PULLED AROUND BY YOUR HAIR, KULLA? ALL RIGHT, I'LL OBLIGE! AND I RATHER ENJOY IT! MAYBE THERE'S STILL A LOT OF THE SAVAGE IN ALL OF US! HMMM—YOU DO LIKE IT— YOU'RE ALMOST PURRING!
"THE NEXT DAY AT THE OFFICE, I GOT A TELEGRAM THAT SET MY HAIR ON END..."
MY SISTER, PAYING ME A VISIT TODAY! BUT SHE'S GOING DIRECTLY TO THE HOUSE AND WAIT BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BOTHER ME! AND KULLA IS THERE, ALONE!
I PRAY I'M IN TIME! WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN— BUT HOW COULD I HAVE FORESEEN THIS? NOBODY COULD—KULLA WOULD BE AFRAID TO LEAVE THE HOUSE, BUT IF ANYONE ENTERS...
CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS



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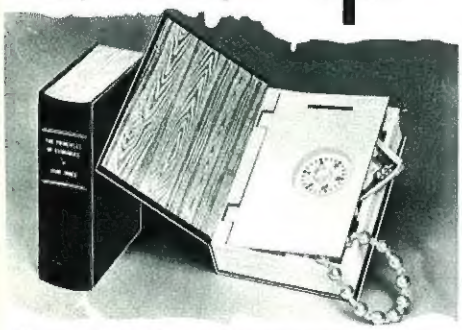

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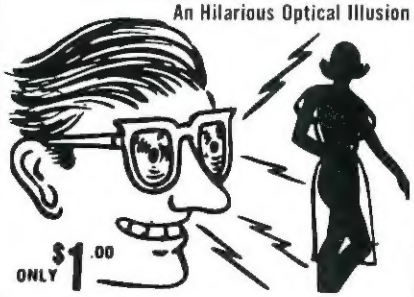

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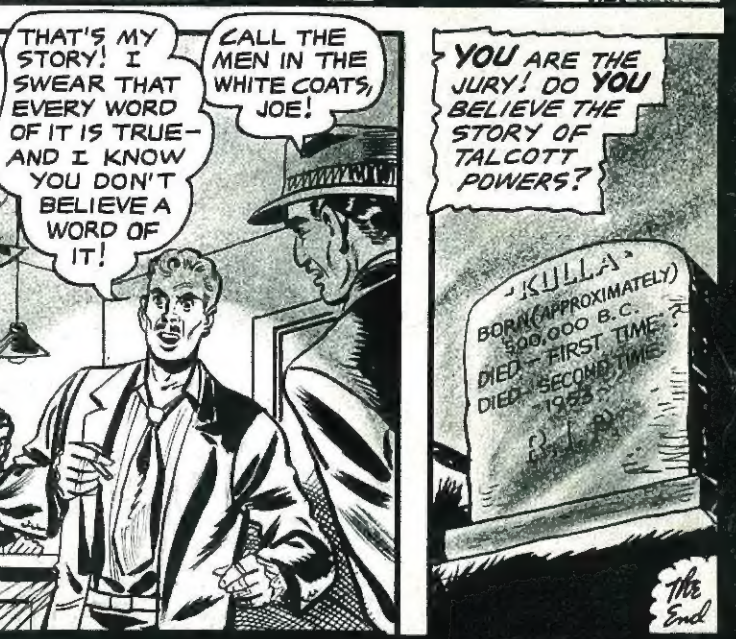
"SOMEONE HAD! MY SISTER! AND KULLA, NOT UNDERSTANDING, IN A JEALOUS RAGE, HAD FOUND A HAMMER SOMEWHERE, AND..."
OH, HEAVENS! SHE'S KILLED SUSAN! PROBABLY THOUGHT THAT WAS A STONE HAMMER! AND LOOK AT HER— SHE'S PROUD OF HERSELF!
KULLA— KULLA—

"SHE HANDED ME THE BLOODY HAMMER, OBVIOUSLY EXPECTING PRAISE! AND WHY NOT, AFTER ALL? IN HER PRIMITIVE MIND SHE HAD DONE A FINE AND BOLD THING! SHE HAD KILLED A RIVAL..."
OH, I'M SICK! I FEEL AWFUL! WHAT TO DO WITH HER?
KULLA? KULLA?

I KNOW, KULLA, YOU'RE ASKING A QUESTION! YOU WONDER WHY I DON'T PRAISE YOU, GIVE YOU FOOD, EVEN KISS YOU! POOR KULLA! HOW CAN YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU CAN'T, OF COURSE! AND IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, KULLA! IT'S MINE, ALL MINE! BUT WE BOTH HAVE TO PAY!

"SHE SENSED WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO AND CLUNG TO ME, WHIMPERING IN TERROR! BUT I RAISED THE HAMMER..."
I'M BEING KIND, KULLA! THEY WOULD CAGE YOU, STUDY YOU! YOU WOULD NEVER KNOW FREEDOM!

THIS WAY IS BEST! AND I DEEPLY IMPLORE YOUR PARDON FOR WHAT I'M DOING NOW! I SHOULD HAVE LEFT YOU TO YOUR SLUMBER, IN YOUR ICE MOUNTAIN! SO GO TO YOUR PREHISTORIC HEAVEN, KULLA, AND I WILL TAKE MY OWN PUNISHMENT! GOODBYE, KULLA!


AND THAT'S YOUR STORY, BUB?
THAT'S MY STORY! I SWEAR THAT EVERY WORD OF IT IS TRUE— AND I KNOW YOU DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT!
CALL THE MEN IN THE WHITE COATS, JOE!
YOU ARE THE JURY! DO YOU BELIEVE THE STORY OF TALCOTT POWERS?
KULLA
BORN (APPROXIMATELY) 500,000 B.C.
DIED — FIRST TIME
DIED — SECOND TIME — 1933
The End